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ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

ANNUAL REPORT

30 April 1993-13 April 1994

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

OFFICIAL RECORDS, 1994

SUPPLEMENT No. 16

UNITED NATIONS

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NOTE

Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of capital letters combined with figures. Mention of such a symbol indicates a reference to a United Nations document.

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ABBREVIATIONS

ACPR	Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission
ACU	Asian Clearing Union
ADB	Asian Development Bank
AFEJ	Asia-Pacific Forum of Environmental Journalists
ALTID	Asian land transport infrastructure development
APCC	Asian and Pacific Coconut Community
APCTT	Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology
APEC	Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation
APO	Asian Productivity Organization
ARSAP	agricultural requisites scheme for Asia and the Pacific
ASEAN	Association of South-East Asian Nations
CCOP	Committee for Coordination of Joint Prospecting for Mineral Resources in Asian Offshore Areas
CGPRT Centre	Regional Coordination Centre for Research and Development of Coarse Grains, Pulses, Roots and Tuber Crops in the Humid Tropics of Asia and the Pacific
CITYNET	Regional Network of Local Authorities for the Management of Human Settlements
ECDC	economic cooperation among developing countries
ECE	Economic Commission for Europe
ECO	Economic Cooperation Organization
ESCAP/POC	ESCAP Pacific Operations Centre
ESCWA	Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia
FADINAP	ESCAP/FAO/UNIDO Fertilizer Advisory, Development and Information Network for Asia and the Pacific
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
GATT	General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GIS	geographic information systems
GNP	gross national product
GSP	generalized system of preferences
GTZ	German Agency for Technical Cooperation
IAEA	International Atomic Energy Agency
ICAO	International Civil Aviation Organization
ICP	International Comparison Programme
IFA	International Fertilizer Industry Association
IJO	International Jute Organization
ILO	International Labour Organization
IMF	International Monetary Fund
IMO	International Maritime Organization
IOMAC	Indian Ocean Marine Affairs Cooperation
ITU	International Telecommunication Union

ABBREVIATIONS *(continued)*

JICA	Japan International Cooperation Agency
NFIS	Network of Fertilizer Information Systems
NGOs	non-governmental organizations
ODA	official development assistance
OECD	Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development
POPIN	Population Information Network
PORTMIS	Port Management Information System
RNAM	Regional Network for Agricultural Machinery
RRSP	Regional Remote Sensing Programme
SAARC	South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation
SACEP	South Asian Cooperative Environment Programme
SEATRADC	Southeast Asia Tin Research and Development Centre
SIAP	Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific
SNA	United Nations System of National Accounts
SOPAC	South Pacific Applied Geoscience Commission
SPC	South Pacific Commission
SPREP	South Pacific Regional Environment Programme
TCDC	technical cooperation among developing countries
TISNET	Regional Trade Information Network
TRISHNET	Network of Research, Training and information Institutes on Human Settlements in Asia and the Pacific
UNCHS	United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat)
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNDCP	United Nations International Drug Control Programme
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
UPU	Universal Postal Union
WASME	World Assembly of Small and Medium Enterprises
WHO	World Health Organization
WIPO	World Intellectual Property Organization
WMO	World Meteorological Organization
WTO	World Tourism Organization

Introduction

1. The annual report of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, which covers the period 30 April 1993 to 13 April 1994, was adopted unanimously by the Commission at its 758th meeting on 13 April 1994.

Chapter I

ISSUES CALLING FOR ACTION BY THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL OR BROUGHT TO ITS ATTENTION

A. Issues calling for action by the Economic and Social Council

Amendment of the terms of reference of the Commission

2. At its 758th meeting, the Commission approved the following draft resolution for submission to the Economic and Social Council for action.

Admission of Armenia as a member of the Commission

"*The Economic and Social Council*,

"*Noting* that the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific has recommended the inclusion of Armenia within the geographical scope of the Commission and its admission as a member of the Commission,

"*Approves* the recommendation of the Commission that Armenia be included within the geographical scope of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific and be admitted as a member of the Commission,

"*Decides* to amend paragraphs 2 and 3 of the terms of reference of the Commission accordingly."

Venue of the fifty-first session of the Commission

3. At the 758th meeting of the Commission on 13 April 1994, it decided to hold its fifty-first session in Bangkok, subject to the approval of the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly.

B. Resolutions brought to the attention of the Economic and Social Council

50/1. Delhi Declaration on Strengthening Regional Economic Cooperation in Asia and the Pacific towards the Twenty-first Century

50/2. Action plan on infrastructure development in Asia and the Pacific

50/3. Participatory human settlements development

50/4. Regional preparations for the Fourth World Conference on Women, 1995: Second Asian and Pacific Ministerial Conference on Women in Development, 1994

50/5. Status of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific

50/6. Regional preparations for the World Summit for Social Development

50/7. Update of the Jakarta Plan of Action on Human Resources Development in the ESCAP Region

50/8. Strengthening of subregional economic co-operation in North-East Asia

50/9. Implementation of the Action Programme for Regional Economic Cooperation in Investment-related Technology Transfer

Chapter II

WORK OF THE COMMISSION SINCE THE FORTY-NINTH SESSION

A. Activities of subsidiary bodies

4. During the period under review, the following subsidiary bodies convened meetings: the Committees on Environment and Sustainable Development, on Poverty Alleviation through Economic Growth and Social Development, and on Transport and Communications, and the Committee for Regional Economic Cooperation. The Ministerial Conference on Urbanization in Asia and the Pacific was also convened. The dates, bureaux and document symbols of the reports of the meetings are given in annex III to the present report. The activities of the subsidiary bodies since the forty-ninth session of the Commission are highlighted below. Publications, meetings and advisory services under each subprogramme are listed in the annex to this chapter.

Committee for Regional Economic Cooperation

Development issues and policies

5. The *Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 1993* considered world economic developments and prospects and reviewed macroeconomic performance and policies, including developments in trade and balance of payments in the ESCAP region. The *Survey* took up the issue of fiscal reforms, which has been an important component of the economic restructuring and adjustment pursued by developing Asian and Pacific countries for over a decade. With regard to the social sector, two areas were highlighted: the question of economic transformation and social development, and the implications of population dynamics for development. As mandated by the Commission, progress at the regional level in the implementation of the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade was reviewed. Keeping in view the objectives of the Strategy, the review devoted particular attention to the underlying factors for resurgence of growth in the region as well as to issues related to poverty alleviation, environmental sustainability and strengthening international development cooperation.

6. Close interdivisional cooperation was maintained in the preparations for and servicing of thematic committees. Substantive inputs were provided for the review of the economic situation and outlook in the Asian and Pacific region, emerging issues related to the liberalization and opening up of the disadvantaged economies in transition, the poverty situation in the region, national policy approaches to poverty alleviation, and the integration of environmental considerations into economic decision-making.

7. Work continued in implementing Commission resolution 48/8 of 23 April 1992 on problems faced by the transitional disadvantaged economies in the ESCAP region. National workshops on economic reforms were held in Kazakhstan, Mongolia and Uzbekistan, and addressed four major issues: restoration and maintenance of external macroeconomic stability, replacement of the command economy structure with a competitive environment, restructuring and reform of agricultural and industrial enterprises, and minimizing the social costs of economic reforms.

8. An important activity on tax system reforms with special reference to their impact on income distribution and poverty was initiated. The main aims of the project were to orient the tax system to fulfil the objectives of growth and equity, and for tax policy to be seen as a device enabling the Government to raise the resources needed to alleviate poverty as well as giving consideration to the direct redistributive consequences of taxes.

International trade and development finance

9. In accordance with the revised subsidiary structure of the Commission, the subprogramme was reoriented and a firm basis was laid for the formal introduction of the thematic subprogramme on regional economic cooperation. The Committee for Regional Economic Cooperation, at its second session held in April 1993, approved the Action Programme for Regional Economic Cooperation in Trade and Investment, which received the endorsement of the Commission at its forty-ninth session. The third meeting of the Steering Group of the Committee was held in Tokyo in October 1993, and the fourth meeting in Kathmandu in March 1994. At those meetings, implementation of the Action Programme was reviewed. The third session of the Committee was held in New Delhi in April 1994 immediately preceding the fiftieth session of the Commission. The successful outcome of these meetings testified to the proper integration of the thematic approach into the work programme of ESCAP.

10. Among other important activities, an expert group meeting on the development of economies in transition in North-East Asia through intraregional trade expansion and subregional economic cooperation initiated a process of consultation among the countries of that subregion, on the basis of which the secretariat proposes to undertake further activities.

11. An expert group meeting on the expansion of trade in vegetable oils for edible use and for the oleochemicals industry suggested guidelines to the secretariat for strengthening cooperation among major producers of vegetable oils in the region and enhancing the complementarity within the region in the supply and demand of vegetable oils.

12. The fourteenth session of the Standing Committee of the Bangkok Agreement was held in Bangkok in December 1993. The Government of Papua New Guinea acceded to the Agreement as its sixth member. Tariff preferences on 559 items have been exchanged among the six member countries: Bangladesh, India, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Papua New Guinea, Republic of Korea and Sri Lanka.

13. The process of consultation among consuming and producing countries of coffee and jute in order to coordinate their endeavours for improvements in the production and marketing of those commodities, as well as in the overall policy framework, continued to be given priority attention through the fourteenth session of the Government Consultation among Jute Producing Countries and the first session of the Asia-Pacific Consultative Forum on Coffee.

14. A three-year work programme for the networking of trade-related research institutions in Asia and the Pacific was finalized. Under that programme, approved activities relate to the promotion of intraregional trade through support for policy-making by organizing regional and national seminars on topical issues, granting research fellowships, and disseminating research findings.

15. Along with the policy-oriented activities, the secretariat undertook a wide range of operational activities, including technical assistance in intraregional trade and investment; strengthening the role of the Asian Clearing Union (ACU), and of the Asian Reinsurance Corporation (ARC) (the Islamic Republic of Iran became the tenth member of ARC in August 1993); trade information; market and product diversification; trade expansion in commodities and manufactures; and various other export promotion activities, including an exhibition of handicrafts (gift items) from five Asian least developed countries, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar and Nepal, held in Tokyo in November 1993.

16. Implementation of activities commenced under a US$ 3 million programme funded by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), to be completed in 1997, on exploitation of business opportunities/networks to support trade and commerce. Several of the activities are related directly to the implementation of the Action Programme for Regional Economic Cooperation in Trade and Investment, especially its components concerning review and analysis of regional trade patterns, the study of regional commodity problems, strengthening of the regional trade information network, networking of trade-related research institutions, study of sectoral flows of foreign direct investment, and the establishment of a regional investment information and promotion service.

17. Staff vacancies partly affected the timely delivery of a few outputs, especially the establishment of a regional network on trade facilitation, the meeting relating to which had to be postponed.

Industrial and technological development

18. The major focus of the secretariat's activities in the field of industrial development related to the promotion of industrial restructuring, investment, skills development, enhancement of the role of the private sector and privatization, small and medium industries and the participation of women in industrial development. The secretariat, in the course of implementation of the Seoul Plan of Action for Promoting Industrial Restructuring in Asia and the Pacific, the Tehran Declaration on Strengthening Regional Cooperation for Technology-led Industrialization in Asia and the Pacific, and the Regional Strategy and Action Plan for Industrial and Technological Development, undertook several activities with a view to promoting cooperation among countries for further industrialization in developing economies of the region. The first meeting of the Regional Forum for Sustainable Industrial Development and Restructuring in Asia and the Pacific was held in Kuala Lumpur in December 1993. The meeting recommended, *inter alia*, the need for providing greater assistance to developing countries in integrating their industrial activities at the regional and global levels, with a view to improving the international and domestic competitiveness of their manufactured products. A regional symposium on privatization was organized in Karachi in January-February 1994. The symposium, organized in cooperation with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the International Labour Organization (ILO), the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and the Asian Development Bank (ADB), recommended several actions in the areas of policies and strategies, social and labour issues, and financing and techniques for promoting the role of the private sector and of privatization in accelerating the pace of industrial development in the region.

19. Increasing regional cooperation in science and technology in accordance with the Beijing Declaration on Regional Economic Cooperation was given high priority. The Committee for Regional Economic Cooperation at its third session, and its Steering Group at its third and fourth meetings, developed and finalized an action programme for regional economic cooperation in investment-related technology transfer. The programme is aimed at enhancing technology flows, particularly those associated with foreign direct investment, to the region and among countries in the

region, as well as building up endogenous technological capabilities. It pays special attention to least developed and island developing countries and the disadvantaged economies in transition.

20. Other important activities undertaken with public and private sector participation included regional and national workshops, seminars, training courses and expert group meetings in several industrial and technological development areas, including development and popularization of appropriate industrial technology for food-processing for least developed and land-locked countries and disadvantaged economies in transition; technology atlas extension; and privatization as a vehicle for improving the efficiency of public sector enterprises, financing of small and medium enterprises, and industrial restructuring.

21. Information, data and other findings of the various studies prepared in the areas of industrial development and restructuring, involvement of women in industry, and development of small and medium-scale industries were widely distributed through publications including the annual *Small Industry Bulletin for Asia and the Pacific* and *Industrial Development News for Asia and the Pacific*.

22. The publications also included country and other studies on promoting international competitiveness and resource utilization; strategies for technological transformation; technical cooperation in standardization and quality control; transfer of new technologies; patent structures; diversified skill development for women in industry; major issues in human resources development; and a training manual on solar photovoltaic systems.

23. A mission to Azerbaijan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan in April 1993 assessed the current status and identified needs and priorities in the field of industrial and technological development. A comprehensive report was prepared and consultations were held with other United Nations bodies and agencies on implementing the recommendations of the mission. Technical assistance was provided to Bangladesh, Fiji, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Mongolia, Nepal and Viet Nam in finalizing project profiles for presentation at the investment forum to be held in Tokyo and Seoul.

24. Operational activities included advisory missions on science and technology manpower forecasting, industrial restructuring and technological upgrading and information technology, as well as technical assistance in such areas as investment promotion and enhancement of the role of the private sector, plant growth regulators, and advanced technology for dyestuff manufacturing and commercialization.

25. The delivered outputs were designed to provide technical assistance using the above modalities and regional cooperation, to countries in Asia and the Pacific, particularly the least developed, land-locked and island developing countries and the disadvantaged economies in transition, in their industrial and technological development efforts. The activities have served to promote the strengthening of endogenous capacity, including local infrastructural facilities and human resources development for industrial and technological development. They have also contributed to efforts directed at accelerating industrialization through industrial restructuring and enhancing local technological capabilities for domestic production and competitive export of manufactured goods. Despite these efforts, much more needs to be done to achieve the objectives of the sector fully.

Committee on Environment and Sustainable Development

26. Following the decision by the Commission at its forty-eighth session to adopt a thematic programming approach, the first session of the newly established Committee on Environment and Sustainable Development was held in October 1993. A total of 18 substantive reports were submitted to the Committee and to the preparatory expert group meeting held in Bangkok in September-October 1993.

Energy

27. Six country reports on sectoral energy demand were completed, plus a framework for building long-term scenarios. Proceedings of the regional workshop on sectoral energy demand, supported by UNDP under the former Regional Energy Development Programme (REDP), with supplementary funding from the Government of France, were published. Eight publications were distributed from April to June 1993, and by the end of 1993 five others had been completed. One publication has been deleted from the programme owing to lack of material.

28. Operational activities included two advisory missions to Cambodia, on hydrocarbon exploration, and hydrocarbon contract agreements, and one follow-up mission to the Philippines on sectoral energy demand studies. Technical cooperation among developing countries (TCDC) consultations on wind energy were undertaken with Fiji. A training workshop on promotion of energy consultancy services was conducted in Bangkok in December 1993, with funding support from the Government of Japan. Under the UNDP-funded Programme for Asian Cooperation in Energy and the Environment (PACE-E), an executive seminar on coal technology and the environment was organized in Sydney in July 1993; a training course on coal production, utilization and environmental protection was held from August to October 1993, also in Sydney; and two one-week workshops on coal technology were organized in Bangkok and Kuala Lumpur in October and November respectively. A mission to New Zealand and Indonesia was fielded in November-December 1993 to prepare for activities related to natural gas, while

missions to China and the Philippines for the assessment of activities on that subject were completed in February 1994. A regional workshop on national energy conservation strategies was organized in Bangkok in March 1994.

29. In collaboration with UNDP, the secretariat participated in the intercountry consultative meeting on PACE-E in December 1993. UNDP decided that ESCAP should be the executing agency of that programme, which was launched in October 1993.

Environment

30. The subprogramme focused on the integration of environmental considerations into planning and decision-making, raising environmental awareness, the management of the terrestrial ecosystem and coastal environment, planning for environmental technology, and hazardous waste management as integral parts of the Regional Strategy on Environmentally Sound and Sustainable Development. Activities concentrated on capacity-building, the promotion of regional cooperation, the development of tools and methodologies, conducting case-studies, and support for the follow-up activities to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development held in 1992.

31. A high-level meeting of experts put forward a regional framework for sustainable development, which was intended to provide overall guidance in setting national priorities and programming regional-level activities for the implementation of Agenda 21. Preparations for the ministerial conference on environment and development, to be held in 1995, were well in hand. Given the growing threat associated with the accumulation of hazardous wastes, the secretariat carried out an assessment of existing capacity of countries, and explored measures for promoting regional cooperation. Case-studies were conducted on environmentally sound and sustainable development issues in relation to macro-level policies; micro-level impacts on ecosystems; the development of environmentally sound coastal tourism; and national plans of action to combat desertification.

32. Activities to promote subregional cooperation on the environment included the development of an action plan for capacity-building for coastal and marine environmental protection in South Asia, the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) Plan of Action on Environment, and support to the Pacific island countries in preparations for the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States. The Regional Network of Research and Training Centres on Desertification Control in Asia and the Pacific (DESCONAP) cooperated with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), particularly in promoting a methodology for mapping desertification, and in setting up a self-sustained intergovernmental mechanism for capacity-building in desertification control. The secretariat continued to promote technology for rural resource enhancement in the least developed countries.

Human settlements

33. The secretariat developed a strategy for capacity-building for environmentally sound and sustainable development and management of urban areas to cover such issues as urbanization strategies and policies, urban poverty, urban productivity, environmentally sound and healthy cities and understanding of urban problems. Thus the programme of work has incorporated fully the principles of Agenda 21. The report *State of Urbanization in Asia and the Pacific 1993* covered, *inter alia*, urban environment problems, and stressed the need for specific environmental policies and a re-examination of those policies and issues that have a negative impact on the urban environment, such as inappropriate pricing of services and resources, weak local government and the use of environmentally questionable technologies.

Natural resources (including marine affairs)

34. In the area of mineral resources, activities concentrated on the assessment of geologic and mineral resource potential in selected least developed countries, and on national and regional assessment of important mineral commodities such as gold, base metals, bauxite, non-metallic and fertilizer minerals, and construction materials. The promotion of foreign investment in the mining industry continued, with assistance in evolving national mineral development strategies, with special reference to mining codes and related investment regimes in Bhutan, Cambodia, China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Sri Lanka and Viet Nam, as well as in their national policy reorientation, mineral potential evaluation and formulation of project proposals. At the subregional and regional levels, those activities were complemented by two investment-oriented projects: on the review of mineral policies for the development of the mining industry and investment promotion in selected countries of the Asian and Pacific region; and on training and support in economic geology and investment promotion in mineral-based industries for the Central Asian republics.

35. Activities for the integration of geoscientific knowledge into land-use planning and environmental geology applications to sustainable development included a series of urban and environmental geological maps, preparations for a regional expert group meeting, and a project proposal on environmental and urban geology for the sustainable development of new economic zones and fast-growing cities.

36. In marine affairs, activities centred on the assessment of marine mineral resources through evaluation of offshore construction aggregates in East Asia, as well as on assistance in developing an

integrated marine policy within the framework of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 1982. Protection of the marine environment was emphasized, including through a special study on Sri Lanka.

37. The secretariat continued to provide advisory services in the area of water resources development and management; requests for such services have increased. As a follow-up to the Regional Seminar on Water Management in Urban Areas held in March 1993, a national seminar was organized in Hanoi in November 1993. Roving seminars on comprehensive flood loss prevention and management were carried out in the Islamic Republic of Iran, Myanmar, Pakistan and Solomon Islands. A project on the assessment of forecasting techniques and preparedness measures has been reactivated, and an advisory mission was fielded to Myanmar in March 1994.

38. Activities in remote sensing and geographic information systems (GIS) were carried out through the Regional Remote Sensing Programme (RRSP). With the completion of the UNDP-funded project in June 1992, RRSP continued to function under the regular programme of work of ESCAP. In May 1993, UNDP approved a new GIS/remote sensing programme for 1993-1996.

39. The annual Meeting of the Directors of the National Remote Sensing Centres/Programmes in the ESCAP Region was held in Islamabad in May 1993, with host facilities provided by the Government of Pakistan, and financial support from the Government of France through its National Space Studies Centre (CNES). During that Meeting, the ninth session of the Intergovernmental Consultative Committee on the RRSP was held at the same venue.

40. A regional seminar on tropical ecosystem management was held in Kuching, Malaysia in September 1993. The seminar was supported technically and financially by the Government of Japan. The Government of Malaysia and the State Government of Sarawak provided host facilities.

41. The Government of China offered four long-term training fellowships under RRSP. Four trainees, two each from the Islamic Republic of Iran and Mongolia, are now pursuing their studies in Wuhan Technical University of Surveying and Mapping. The training programme started in October 1993 and will continue up to the end of September 1994. A study tour for three senior scientists from Viet Nam to China, India and Thailand was arranged by RRSP in November 1993.

42. An international seminar on remote sensing for coastal zone and coral reef applications was held at the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT) in Bangkok in October-November 1993, with parallel financing from RRSP and le Groupement pour le développement de la télédetection aérospatiale (GDTA) of France.

43. The regional adviser on remote sensing and GIS undertook missions to assist national agencies in introducing, assessing and developing remote sensing and GIS technology, and in evaluating projects for sustainable natural resources development and environmental management. Advisory services were rendered to Cook Islands, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Fiji, Indonesia, Malaysia, Niue, Pakistan and Samoa. Advisory services were also provided in connection with the annual meeting of the ASEAN Remote Sensing Group in Singapore in July 1993.

44. Preparations for the Ministerial Conference on Space Applications for Development in Asia and the Pacific, to be held in Beijing in September 1994, were well in hand, with funding support from the Government of Japan. A meeting of experts in space applications was held in Bangkok in October 1993. A consultative meeting of senior experts was held in Bangkok in March 1994 to finalize the documentation for the Conference.

Committee on Poverty Alleviation through Economic Growth and Social Development

Agriculture and rural development

45. In the area of rural development, the secretariat continued to emphasize activities aimed at the alleviation of rural poverty as well as sustainable agricultural development. These activities were increasingly carried out in coordination with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and other agencies.

46. In the area of poverty alleviation, a follow-up project on market-generated rural employment was initiated jointly with FAO. It is expected that this project, which will commence in early 1994, will enhance the incomes of the target groups of the rural poor by stressing market linkages which deliver satisfactory returns for selected enterprises. In another project on employment strategies for the rural poor, activities undertaken at the village level in Bangladesh, Nepal and Viet Nam were completed. Those activities were evaluated and found to have been very useful in raising the incomes of disadvantaged rural households. A regional meeting organized in July 1993 to discuss the outcome of the project recommended that it should be continued and expanded in scale. Under another project, an expert group meeting on sensitizing agricultural research to community development needs was organized in Bangkok in August 1993. The meeting reviewed the agricultural research systems in selected developing countries of the region and provided recommendations to ensure that the interests of disadvantaged groups were reflected in research programmes.

47. In the area of sustainable agricultural development, the ESCAP/FAO project on sustainable

agricultural development strategies for the least developed countries is expected to provide advisory assistance to the participating countries in terms of macroeconomic planning throughout 1994.

48. The ESCAP/FAO/UNIDO Fertilizer Advisory, Development and Information Network for Asia and the Pacific (FADINAP) continued to provide assistance to its members through information dissemination, training and advisory services. The publication of its journals and bulletins continued as scheduled. A regional workshop on cooperation in soil-testing for environmental protection was conducted. A regional fertilizer marketing training programme was held in collaboration with the Fertilizer Association of India and the Agriculture Inputs Corporation of Nepal. The FADINAP Network of Fertilizer Information Systems (NFIS) organized a regional consultation to assess the sustainability of the national cooperating centres of NFIS. Kyrgyzstan became a member of FADINAP early in 1994.

49. The activities of the agricultural requisites scheme for Asia and the Pacific (ARSAP) concentrated on the reduction of the undesirable effects of pesticides on humans, animals and the environment through the propagation of alternatives to pesticide use. The database on pesticides and the environment links information on pesticides used in the region with information on effects on the health of humans and animals, and hazards to the environment. Where available, non-chemical crop protection strategies or less toxic products were recommended. A visit by scientific counterparts from the European Union to the participating countries was organized to harmonize information to be included in the database. Computer equipment to be used for its operation was distributed to the countries. The project is expected to be concluded by September 1994 with the installation of the database on pesticide control organizations, medical and veterinary poisoning emergency services and environmental protection agencies.

Human resources development

50. In pursuance of Commission resolution 48/6 of 23 April 1992, the secretariat convened an expert group meeting in January 1994 to review the Jakarta Plan of Action on Human Resources Development in the ESCAP Region with a view to updating it to reflect changing conditions in the ESCAP region. The revised Plan was presented to the Commission for consideration at its fiftieth session.

51. In that resolution, the Commission had also requested the secretariat to survey national and regional implementation of the Jakarta Plan of Action. Accordingly, the secretariat, in cooperation with the national focal points for human resources development, undertook a survey of the human resources development situation in countries of the region. The survey was submitted to the Committee on Poverty Alleviation through Economic Growth and Social Development at its first session.

52. Recognizing the catalytic role that non-governmental organizations (NGOs) play in promoting human resources development, the secretariat conducted a study on fiscal incentives to support the growth and viability of NGOs in support of human resources development. The *ESCAP HRD Newsletter* was prepared and issued as part of the secretariat effort to promote the exchange of national experience in and approaches to human resources development. The publication *Women in Politics in Asia and the Pacific: Proceedings of the Seminar on Promoting Women's Participation in Politics as an Aspect of Human Resources Development, Seoul, 18-20 November 1992* was prepared and issued.

53. A training workshop on the role of the private sector in human resources development was convened in March 1994 in collaboration with the Population and Community Development Association of Thailand. The objective of the workshop was to train both government and NGO personnel in methodologies to enlist the business community in the transfer of technologies, skills and resources to the rural people as a means of stimulating economic activity and improving the quality of community life.

54. A training project on reaching the poor through government-NGO cooperation in the planning and delivery of basic social services was initiated. Its objective was to document successful approaches to basic social service delivery, conducting joint government-NGO national workshops on the subject and a regional training workshop to enhance the skills of national and NGO personnel in the planning and delivery of basic social services.

Human settlements

55. The most important accomplishment of the secretariat in the field of human settlements during the period under review was the organization of the Ministerial Conference on Urbanization in Asia and the Pacific, held in October-November 1993. Delegations from 35 member countries attended, of which 20 were led by the ministers concerned with urban issues. Parallel to the Ministerial Conference, symposia of local authorities, NGOs, research and training institutions and the media, concerned with urbanization, were held. At those symposia, urban issues and the roles and contributions of the various entities were discussed.

56. The Ministers adopted the Bangkok Declaration on Sustainable Urban Development and Management in Asia and the Pacific, to guide urban development in the region and the work of ESCAP in this field for the future. The report *State of Urbanization in Asia and the*

Pacific 1993 was published in September 1993 and served as background information for the Conference. The report was hailed by participants in the Conference as an important reference document, in particular because of the approaches to solving many problems and the various policy recommendations it contained. The Regional Action Plan on Urbanization was adopted by the Conference. The United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) (UNCHS), UNDP, the World Bank and other United Nations organizations cooperated in the preparations for the Conference and the documentation.

57. Another highlight of the Conference was the establishment of the Asia-Pacific Urban Forum, which held its first meeting in conjunction with the Ministerial Conference, bringing together government officials and representatives of local authorities, NGOs, research and training institutions and the media to discuss issues of urbanization and the possible contributions and cooperation of these different actors. Preparations for the Forum had been made through separate meetings of representatives of the different actors.

58. The Network of Training, Research and Information Institutes in Human Settlements in Asia and the Pacific (TRISHNET) was formally established through a meeting on the establishment of such a network, organized in cooperation with the Human Settlements Management Institute in New Delhi in September 1993.

59. The secretariat continued to strengthen the Regional Network of Local Authorities for the Management of Human Settlements (CITYNET) by assisting its secretariat in implementing the following activities:

(a) Organization of the Executive Committee meeting in Colombo in April 1993;

(b) Organization of exchange visits between officers from member cities concerned with solid waste management and low-income shelter;

(c) Support to the seminar-cum-study visit on final disposal of solid wastes, Wuhan, China, September 1993;

(d) Preparation of case-studies on municipal finance of Penang, Dhaka and Islamabad for the high-level seminar on municipal finance, Bombay, India, November 1993;

(e) Assistance in the development of the medium-term plan and work programme;

(f) Organization of the third Congress of CITYNET, a high-level seminar on municipal finance and a seminar on housing for the poor, hosted by the Municipal Corporation of Greater Bombay;

(g) Training of a staff member through an internship at ESCAP.

60. In the field of subnational area planning, action research was initiated in Ahmedabad, India and Ho Chi Minh City, Viet Nam, where two workshops were organized in 1993. A training module has been finalized for publication, based on the experiences and the discussions at workshops and at the Policy-level Seminar on Subnational Area Planning through Action-oriented Research held in June 1992.

Population

61. A comparative study on the consequences of population change in Asia provided planners, policy makers and researchers in countries of the region with broadened knowledge for identifying specific approaches to integrated policy formulation on population and development.

62. Governments were provided with technical assistance in analysing urbanization trends in their countries in relation to socio-economic development policies, the impact of urbanization and the role of women; in increasing their awareness of the implications of population ageing for socio-economic development plans; and in exchanging experience and strategies on ageing issues by organizing, jointly with the Japan Organization for International Cooperation in Family Planning (JOICFP), a workshop on population ageing.

63. Substantial results were achieved in influencing ESCAP member and associate members concerning the formulation of population policies and the implementation of family planning programmes. Research on family planning programmes examined the interaction between clients and grass-roots family planning personnel; the knowledge and attitudes of family planning workers about contraceptives; the impact and efficiency of family planning programmes and the accessibility of contraceptive methods; integrated approaches to the promotion of community participation in family planning programmes; and improving methodologies for the monitoring and evaluation of family planning/maternal and child health programmes through improving management information systems.

64. Advisory services, technical backstopping, training courses and workshops, information services and grants were among the information activities enabling national information centres in the Asia-Pacific Population Information Network (Asia-Pacific POPIN) to process and disseminate data and information more efficiently to target audiences in support of population policy formulation and programme implementation. An active publications programme produced periodicals to help in meeting the population information needs of those audiences in the region.

Social development

65. The secretariat contributed to national efforts towards alleviating poverty and promoting policies and

programmes to stimulate the greater participation of all sections of society in the development process, with special emphasis on vulnerable groups such as youth, disabled persons and the elderly.

66. With respect to youth, the secretariat contributed to the strengthening of national capabilities to address youth problems and concerns. A project was initiated to strengthen youth skills in economic self-reliance and to enhance youth leadership in national efforts to integrate youth into the development process. Meetings were held at local, national and subregional levels to enhance functional literacy among girls and young women in South Asia.

67. With regard to disabled persons, the secretariat continued its activities in support of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 1993-2002, and the Proclamation on the Full Participation and Equality of People with Disabilities in the Asian and Pacific Region. To improve the management and participation of self-help organizations of disabled persons, the secretariat convened two subregional workshops and issued a directory of self-help organizations. Advisory services were directed towards enhancing government capabilities to include the participation of disabled persons in the development planning process.

68. Concerning elderly persons, the secretariat prepared a study entitled *Policies and Programmes Concerning the Integration of Elderly Persons in Development: Two Case-studies*.

69. With regard to drug abuse and human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection, the secretariat contributed to the development of integrated community-based approaches to drug demand reduction through the collection of baseline information, the organization of pilot planning and training workshops and the implementation of community-based activities in rural and urban communities in five countries of the ESCAP region. The community-based approaches were extended to the border areas of two countries of the region. Activities to prevent infection by HIV, in particular among drug abusers, were developed and implemented. Activities were carried out to strengthen a regional network of national focal points on drug demand reduction, including the convening of meetings and the dissemination of a fact sheet and information base on drug demand reduction. Advisory services were rendered to assist Governments and NGOs in strengthening drug demand reduction activities.

70. In respect of social development policies and planning, the secretariat contributed to national efforts to formulate and implement national policies, plans and programmes aimed at achieving balanced socio-economic development in accordance with the aims and objectives of the Social Development Strategy for the ESCAP Region Towards the Year 2000 and Beyond. Action was initiated to convene a regional ministerial conference in preparation for the World Summit for Social Development, at Manila in October 1994. In pursuance of Commission resolution 47/13 of 10 April 1991, the secretariat convened the Asian and Pacific Preparatory Meeting for the International Year of the Family in May 1993. Two studies were published: *National Policies and Programmes for the Family in Asia and the Pacific* and the *Role of the Family in Development: Four Studies of the Situation in Asia and the Pacific*. The secretariat provided advisory services on the implementation of the Social Development Strategy, crime prevention policies and programmes and planning and delivery of social services, and information services through the publication of a compendium of social development indicators and newsletters on selected issues in social development.

Women in development

71. The secretariat contributed to national reviews on the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women and to national efforts to implement the Strategies, with special reference to the effective mobilization and integration of women in the development process. National case-studies in education, energy, fisheries and water resources were completed in four countries. Preparation of resource materials for the integration of women's concerns into development planning was initiated.

72. The secretariat undertook preparations for the Second Asian and Pacific Ministerial Conference on Women in Development, to be held in Jakarta in June 1994, which would be a regional preparatory meeting for the Fourth World Conference on Women to be held in Beijing in September 1995. The second inter-agency meeting on preparations for the Second Asian and Pacific Conference was convened to exchange information on ongoing and planned activities and discuss means of enhancing collaboration and coordination in preparing for the Ministerial Conference. The secretariat convened the Asian and Pacific Symposium of Non-governmental Organizations on Women in Development, which formulated a draft NGO plan of action for the advancement of women in Asia and the Pacific. After being finalized by an NGO working group, the plan of action will be presented to the Ministerial Conference for consideration. The secretariat undertook studies on review and appraisal of the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies and, assisted by an expert group meeting on women in development, prepared a draft plan of action for the advancement of women in Asia and the Pacific to be presented for consideration by the Ministerial Conference.

73. In order to strengthen the regional information network on women, the secretariat published the *Directory of National Focal Points for the Advancement of Women in Asia and the Pacific, 1993* and the *Directory of Women Experts in Asia and the Pacific*. It promoted the establishment of national women's

information networks by organizing national workshops and providing technical advisory services.

Committee on Transport and Communications

Transport and communications

74. The major activities of the subprogramme were the preparation of the theme topic study of the fiftieth session of the Commission, *Infrastructure Development as Key to Economic Growth and Regional Economic Cooperation*, and the background material of the Committee, *Review of Developments in Transport and Communications in the ESCAP Region 1993*.

75. The secretariat continued to emphasize the development of interregional and intraregional linkages in mainland Asia through the implementation of the integrated project on Asian land transport infrastructure development (ALTID), which comprised the projects on the Asian Highway, the Trans-Asian Railway and facilitation of land transport at border-crossings. The Committee, at its first session in December 1993, endorsed the implementation strategy of the ALTID project aimed at maximum utilization of existing land transport infrastructure and the optimum utilization of available resources, as well as the action plan for 1994-1995. The revised Asian Highway network standards were agreed by an expert group meeting on development of the Asian Highway network, held in November-December 1993. Some progress was made in the implementation of Commission resolution 48/11 of 23 April 1992 on road and rail transport modes in relation to facilitation measures. The secretariat also provided input to the Outline Plan for the Development of the Transport Sector in the ECO Region, adopted in Alma-Ata in October 1993, which included the development of road and rail linkages.

76. The development of transport databases and forecasting and planning tools, including the Maritime Policy Planning Model (MPPM) and the transport financial and economic models, was another area of high priority. Through the application of MPPM, two in-depth studies, *Prospects for Container Shipping and Port Development* (ASEAN and South Asian subregions) were completed, covering seaborne trade and related container, ports and shipping developments to the year 2000. The secretariat assisted in the application of the MPPM and the transport financial and economic models at the national level through workshops and advisory services.

77. The secretariat continued to assist in strengthening national capabilities in the development of multimodal transport through national workshops and advisory services. Other areas where human resources development was promoted included electronic data interchange (EDI) in transport and port management.

78. In support of the implementation of Agenda 21, the secretariat continued its activities in promoting the use of compressed natural gas (CNG) in road transport through a pilot study in Karachi, Pakistan, and a seminar-cum-study tour in Germany.

79. In undertaking these activities, special attention was paid to assisting the least developed, land-locked and island developing countries, as well as the disadvantaged economies in transition, and efforts were made to promote the active participation of national institutes in the region.

Tourism

80. In the field of tourism, the secretariat continued to assist developing countries in deriving greater socio-economic benefits from a planned and systematic development of tourism by undertaking studies and organizing seminars and other meetings. Special efforts were made to improve policies for tourism development, taking into consideration the socio-economic and environmental impact of tourism. An expert group meeting provided guidance on future courses of action to enhance national capabilities in tourism training, as well as to promote regional cooperation among tourism training institutes. For Pacific island countries, a seminar and studies were undertaken to assist Governments in creating a favourable investment climate for the development of tourism. Data and information on tourism development were disseminated through the *ESCAP Tourism Review* and the *ESCAP Tourism Newsletter*, and advisory services were rendered.

Committee on Statistics

81. Strengthening national statistical capabilities continued to be the focus of the statistics development activities of the statistics subprogramme. The secretariat initiated projects on the development of gender statistics and on environmental and resource accounting. Technical assistance in strengthening national statistical capabilities was provided to developing countries through advisory services, training workshops, technical meetings, and study tours organized under TCDC and other arrangements.

82. A total of 36 advisory missions were fielded on various aspects of national accounts; compilation of price and expenditure statistics; utilization of statistical software packages; and planning, processing and analysing population censuses and surveys. The ESCAP advisers affiliated with the UNFPA Country Support Teams provided technical assistance in the area of demographic statistics. Technical and substantive support was provided to the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (SIAP) in administering a full programme of training in statistics. Technical meetings organized under the statistics subprogramme focused on environment statistics, data dissemination, monitoring of human development, gender statistics and survey sampling. The eighth session of the Working Group of Statistical Experts was convened, and the secretariat also

organized an expert group meeting on national poverty concepts and measurement. Considerable attention was paid to supporting other statistical work relating to the themes of the Commission.

83. The secretariat continued to gather demographic, social, economic and other statistics on the countries of the region and to issue regular statistical publications, the coverage of which was expanded to include available information on the new members of the Commission. In addition, the secretariat intensified its efforts to develop a computerized ESCAP statistical information system.

84. In the area of government computerization, the lack of extrabudgetary funds continued to constrain substantial progress. However, a number of project proposals were formulated on various aspects of government information systems.

Special Body on Least Developed and Land-locked Developing Countries

85. Secretariat activities in support of least developed countries consisted mainly of initiatives taken in following up the recommendations of the Special Body on Least Developed and Land-locked Developing Countries at its first session held in February 1993, as well as in implementing resolution 49/8 of 29 April 1993 on strengthening assistance to least developed countries, adopted by the Commission at its forty-ninth session. Increased attention has been given to enabling the greater participation of least developed countries in activities organized by the secretariat, while at the same time efforts have been made to develop projects aimed specifically at addressing the special needs of the least developed countries. Advisory missions were undertaken in priority areas identified by the Special Body, particularly in the field of economic modelling and in exploring possibilities for technical assistance under TCDC arrangements available in the region.

86. The secretariat is currently implementing a project on lessons that the least developed countries can learn from the early development experience of the newly industrializing economies (NIEs). The main aim of the project is to draw policy conclusions from NIE experience and to give due attention to the formulation and effective implementation of macroeconomic and sectoral policies, institution-building, private sector participation in development, and measures aimed at more efficient public administration and governance. Funding has been secured for a project on improving the access of women to formal credit and financial institutions in selected least developed countries, and activities under the project have commenced. Another major activity that is expected to give further impetus to the secretariat's work on the least developed countries is the project on the mid-term review of progress in the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s, for which desk studies have been initiated by the secretariat.

Special Body on Pacific Island Developing Countries

87. The main activities undertaken in support of the development efforts of the Pacific island developing countries included:

(a) Assessment of their economic performance, with emphasis on analysis of the constraints and measures needed to overcome them in the context of development policy and planning;

(b) Examination of the nature of emerging changes in the external environment in the 1990s and their implications for trade, finance and investment, to generate recommendations for courses of action and policy responses to those changes;

(c) Identification of critical areas of need in training, particularly in development policy and planning, to be followed up through the provision of consultancy and advisory services and the organization of training courses and seminars.

88. As mandated by the Commission, the second session of the Special Body on Pacific Island Developing Countries was held in March 1994. The Special Body reviewed and provided guidance on: (a) issues related to the recent economic performance and prospects of Pacific island developing countries; (b) patterns and characteristics of ESCAP activities in the Pacific, with emphasis on technical assistance activities implemented by the secretariat, including the ESCAP Pacific Operations Centre; (c) progress in the implementation of Commission resolution 48/9; and (d) status of the Pacific Trust Fund.

B. Other activities

Economic and technical cooperation among developing countries

89. The secretariat continued its efforts to promote ECDC-TCDC through the implementation of over 80 promotional TCDC activities financed from extrabudgetary resources and made available by traditional donors as well as through the developing country-ESCAP cooperation funds of China and the Republic of Korea. The generous contributions of the Governments of China, the Netherlands, Norway and the Republic of Korea to the ESCAP TCDC supplementary fund and the willingness of participating countries and NGOs to meet all local costs also facilitated the implementation of 33 operational TCDC activities, the primary beneficiaries being the least developed, land-locked and island developing countries as well as the disadvantaged economies in transition.

90. Activities covered a wide range of subject areas within the ESCAP programme of work, including agriculture, the environment, human settlements, natural resources, population information, productivity management, rural development, science and

technology, social development, including the disabled and elderly persons, statistics, telecommunications, training of trainers, trade promotion and women in development. A study tour was organized for officials of TCDC national focal points from six least developed countries to study the organizational structure and role of a TCDC national focal point of a more advanced developing country which had a successful TCDC programme, the object being to enable the concerned least developed countries to strengthen the role and functioning of their TCDC national focal points.

91. TCDC activities have contributed to enhancement of the awareness of the development problems faced by the members and associate members in the region, and the sharing of experience and knowledge therefrom has benefited the participating countries.

92. In the field of population, in cooperation with the ECDC-TCDC Services Section of ESCAP, activities were expanded to include training workshops and arrangements for personnel exchange among national population information centres.

C. Relations with other United Nations programmes

Committee for Regional Economic Cooperation

Development issues and policies

93. The secretariat maintained close cooperation with the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Information, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the World Health Organization (WHO) in the preparation of the *Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 1993*. It collaborated with the Department of Economic and Social Information in undertaking macroeconomic modelling and projection activities. Consultations were held with UNCTAD and UNIDO on providing assistance to the least developed countries in the ESCAP region within the framework of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s, and in particular on cooperative efforts in undertaking the mid-term review of progress in the implementation of the Programme of Action. Close cooperation was maintained with the Forum Secretariat, the South Pacific Commission (SPC) and UNDP in providing assistance to the Pacific island developing countries.

Industrial and technological development

94. Close cooperation has been maintained with other United Nations agencies and bodies, especially with the United Nations Centre for Science and Technology for Development (UNCSTD), UNCTAD, UNDP, UNESCO, World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), UNIDO, Asian Development Bank (ADB) and International Organization for Standardization (ISO). Their views and inputs were sought on studies prepared by the secretariat. They participated in expert group meetings, consultations, seminars and symposia.

International trade

95. Continuing consultations and liaison with other United Nations organizations and intergovernmental bodies at the global, regional and national levels aimed at more effective programmes in the region. This included the development and implementation of the regional trade programme on strengthening capacities for growth through trade and investment under the UNDP fifth intercountry programme.

Committee on Environment and Sustainable Development

Energy

96. The secretariat participated in a number of meetings on the issues of energy and sustainable development, such as the meeting on energy, technology and the environment (ETE 21) at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (Cambridge, Mass., May 1993); the workshop on a communications strategy for the electric power industry, organized jointly by the Economic Commission for Europe and the International Union of Producers and Distributors of Electrical Energy (UNIPEDE) (Monte Carlo, June 1993); the international exposition and workshop on medium and small hydropower equipment, organized by the Huangzhou Regional Centre for Small Hydropower (Huangzhou, China, June 1993); the international energy workshop of the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (Austria, June 1993); and two meetings organized by commercial firms: one on oil-spill hazard management (Kuala Lumpur, July 1993), and the other on energy developments in the Pacific (Sydney, Australia, July 1993).

97. The secretariat maintained liaison with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), on energy planning, and with the World Bank on technical assistance to Cambodia (concerning manpower training in the power sector).

Environment

98. Cooperation and coordination were pursued through the Inter-agency Committee on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific. An inter-agency coordinated plan of action for the implementation of Agenda 21, within the framework of the programme of work 1994-1995, was being prepared. The secretariat initiated joint activities with ADB in areas such as climate change, regional strategy, coastal and marine environmental protection, innovative means of financing environmentally sound development and

assessment of the state of the environment in Asia and the Pacific. A review of programmes was conducted jointly with UNEP to identify areas for cooperation.

Natural resources

99. Coordination and liaison were maintained with other agencies, international and regional organizations, including the Department of Economic and Social Development of United Nations Headquarters, UNDP, Committee for Coordination of Joint Prospecting for Mineral Resources in Asian Offshore Areas (CCOP), South Pacific Applied Geoscience Commission (SOPAC), Southeast Asia Tin Research and Development Centre (SEATRADC), Indian Ocean Marine Affairs Cooperation (IOMAC) and United Nations Revolving Fund for Natural Resources Exploration (UNRFNRE), through joint execution of national UNDP projects; attendance at annual meetings and training sessions; presentation of keynote papers at interregional seminars; assistance in the formulation of work plans, programmes and regional projects; and regular consultations on the exploration of mineral deposits in selected countries of the ESCAP region and the formulation of joint programmes.

100. Coordination with other United Nations programmes was also maintained through the Interagency Task Force on Water for Asia and the Pacific. ESCAP continued to serve as its secretariat and maintained liaison with the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC) Subcommittee on Water Resources, at United Nations Headquarters. Most activities in the field of water resources were carried out in collaboration with other United Nations bodies and specialized agencies. In particular, the secretariat maintained close relations with the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction Secretariat, and participated in the fifth session of its Scientific Committee, in preparation for the United Nations World Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction. The secretariat also cooperated with the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) in providing substantive support to the work programmes and the annual sessions of the Typhoon Committee and the Panel on Tropical Cyclones.

101. On remote sensing and applications of space technology, the secretariat worked closely with UNDP, FAO and the Department of Development Support and Management Services, United Nations Headquarters. The UNDP-funded project on integrated applications of GIS and remote sensing for sustainable natural resources development and environmental management was launched in 1993. FAO and the above Department are associated with ESCAP in the implementation of the project.

102. The secretariat maintained regular contact with the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs. A report on ESCAP activities in space applications was sent to that Office for incorporation in the Secretary-General's report on the coordination of outer space activities within the United Nations system for the inter-agency meeting on outer space activities held at the Headquarters of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) in Geneva in October 1993. The regional adviser on remote sensing and GIS, who is also the coordinator of RRSP, represented the secretariat at that meeting.

Committee on Poverty Alleviation through Economic Growth and Social Development

Human resources development

103. The secretariat, in association with ILO and UNESCO, implemented a UNDP-funded project to promote the implementation of the Jakarta Plan of Action on Human Resources Development in the ESCAP Region by strengthening human resources development planning and coordination at the local, national and regional levels. Close collaboration continued with UNDP.

Human settlements

Urban Management Programme for Asia and the Pacific of UNDP

104. ESCAP, in close cooperation with CITYNET, is implementing the Intraregional Participatory Urban Management Programme as one of the components of the above Programme of UNDP. The objectives of the Programme are as follows:

(a) To enhance the capacities of local authorities to manage and develop urban areas more effectively;

(b) To promote partnerships between various urban actors to address urban problems in a holistic and comprehensive manner;

(c) To enhance the quality of research in urban areas.

The prime targets of the Intraregional Participatory Urban Management Programme are urban local policy makers and practitioners in both the governmental and civic sectors. The Programme follows two basic strategies: (i) regional exchange of experience among local authorities and non-governmental or civic sectors leading to understanding and development of indigenous responses to indigenous concerns; and (ii) creating opportunities in which the various actors involved can develop partnerships by working together, building trust and finding solutions by consensus.

105. The Urban Management Programme for Asia and the Pacific has set up a coordination mechanism through regular meetings of the programme management teams which monitor the progress of the various components and provide exchange of information.

Inter-organizational Committee on Urbanization

106. ESCAP established the Inter-organizational Task Force on the Preparations for the Ministerial Conference on Urbanization in Asia and the Pacific and its Follow-up Activities, which held its second meeting in July 1993 to review the preparations for the Conference and the draft regional action plan on urbanization. The Conference adopted the Bangkok Declaration on Sustainable Urban Development and Management in Asia and the Pacific and the Regional Action Plan on Urbanization, which outlined future action at the national level and inputs expected from the United Nations agencies, lending institutions and other donors. The Plan called for the establishment of an inter-organizational committee on urbanization as a mechanism for coordination and to initiate cooperation among the different actors. The first meeting of the Inter-organizational Committee on Urbanization was convened by the secretariat in February 1994.

Population

107. Almost all activities of the population programme were carried out with extrabudgetary support from UNFPA. The secretariat also cooperated with the Population Division of the Department for Economic and Social Information and Policy Analysis at United Nations Headquarters. The secretariat coordinated Asia-Pacific POPIN and collaborated closely with global POPIN at United Nations Headquarters. It is also a member of the ACC Subcommittee on Demographic Estimates and Projections.

108. Inter-agency cooperation was also maintained with the population programmes of ILO, FAO, UNESCO and WHO. The secretariat also cooperated with the regional offices of United Nations specialized agencies located in Bangkok.

Rural development

109. The major emphasis in 1993 was on facilitating awareness of activities initiated and implemented by several United Nations agencies in the field of rural poverty alleviation. In spite of the financial constraints, the inter-agency newsletter *Poverty Alleviation Initiatives* was published and became an important medium of information on rural poverty alleviation. Close collaboration through the exchange of information and technical know-how was continued with the Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific (CIRDAP). Collaboration was maintained with the ACC Subcommittee on Rural Development on information exchange.

Social development

110. In the field of social development, close contact and cooperation were maintained with other United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, particularly with members of the Inter-agency Task Force on Implementation of the Social Development Strategy for the ESCAP Region Towards the Year 2000 and Beyond. In the areas of social development planning, youth, disabled persons, the elderly and drug abuse control, close cooperation and coordination continued with the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development, the United Nations Office at Vienna, the United Nations Asia and Far East Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (UNAFEI), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), UNCHS, UNDP, the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP), UNEP, UNFPA, ILO, FAO, UNESCO, WHO and UNIDO.

Women in development

111. With regard to women in development, close contact and cooperation were maintained with other United Nations bodies and specialized agencies. Two inter-agency meetings were held to ensure effective collaboration in the preparations for the Asian and Pacific Symposium of Non-governmental Organizations on Women in Development and the Second Asian and Pacific Ministerial Conference on Women in Development, to be held in June 1994. Close collaboration continued with the United Nations Office at Vienna and the Division for the Advancement of Women, Secretariat of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development.

Committee on Transport and Communications

Transport and communications

112. The biennial *Review of Developments in Transport and Communications in the ESCAP Region* covered for the first time sectoral analyses of air transport and telecommunications, with the assistance of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and ITU. In order to facilitate the implementation of the regional action programme for phase II (1992-1996) of the Transport and Communications Decade for Asia and the Pacific, which had been endorsed by the Meeting of Ministers Responsible for Transport and Communications, held in June 1992, the secretariat maintained close inter-agency coordination and cooperation with UNCTAD, UNDP, ILO, ICAO, the World Bank, the Universal Postal Union (UPU), ITU, WMO and the Asia-Pacific Telecommunity (APT), which were members of the Inter-agency Steering Committee on Phase II (1992-1996) of the Decade. The approval by UNDP of the programme for economic reform through enhanced transport and communications services enabled the secretariat and other concerned agencies to commence implementation of a number of the activities included in the regional action programme. In the implementation of joint projects, cooperation was maintained with UNCTAD in promoting multimodal

transport in the region, and with IMO in the facilitation of maritime traffic.

Tourism

113. In the field of tourism, the secretariat maintained close contact and cooperation with ILO, the World Tourism Organization (WTO), ADB, the Pacific Asia Travel Association (PATA) and the Tourism Council of the South Pacific.

Committee on Statistics

114. In the field of statistics, the secretariat maintained close working relations with the United Nations Statistical Division, the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), UNICEF, UNCTAD, UNDP, UNFPA, the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), ILO, FAO, UNESCO, the World Bank and IMF. The secretariat continued to participate in the revision of the United Nations System of National Accounts (SNA) carried out jointly by various United Nations agencies, the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and the Statistical Office of the European Communities (EUROSTAT). Cooperation was maintained with these and other intergovernmental organizations, such as ADB and SPC; with various bilateral technical assistance agencies, such as the United States Bureau of the Census and the Overseas Development Administration of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland; and with NGOs and professional and academic institutions such as the International Statistical Institute, the East-West Center, and the International Institute for Vital Registration and Statistics. Secretariat staff served as resource persons for various meetings, training courses and other group activities convened by some of these organizations.

Annex

LIST OF PUBLICATIONS, MEETINGS AND ADVISORY SERVICES

A. List of publications

Committee for Regional Economic Cooperation

Development issues and policies

Development Papers, No. 13, *The Control and Management of Government Expenditure: Issues and Experience in Asian Countries* (ST/ESCAP/1110); No. 14, *Policy Analysis through Macro-models: Issues, Techniques and Applications in Selected Developing Asian Countries* (ST/ESCAP/1259); No. 15, *Social Costs of Economic Restructuring in Asia and the Pacific* (ST/ESCAP/1266); No. 16, *Human Resources Development: Effectiveness of Programme Delivery at the Local Level in the ESCAP Region* (ST/ESCAP/1296)

Domestic Resources Mobilization through Postal Savings: Experiences of Selected Asian Countries (ST/ESCAP/1279)

Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 1993 (ST/ESCAP/1363)

Economic Bulletin for Asia and the Pacific, vol. XLIII, No. 1, June 1992 (ST/ESCAP/1265); No. 2, December 1992 (ST/ESCAP/1324); vol. XLIV, No. 1, June 1993 (ST/ESCAP/1327); No. 2, December 1993 (ST/ESCAP/1328)

Human Resources Development and Economic Growth (ST/ESCAP/1298)

The Role of the Financial Industry in Economic Development: The Experience in the ESCAP Region with Special Reference to that of Bangladesh (ST/ESCAP/1350)

International trade and development finance

Annual Cumulative Index for the Trade Information Sources Data Bank, 1992 (ST/ESCAP/1325)

Compendium of Selected National Perspectives for the Expansion of Trade and Business Opportunities in the Asian and Pacific Region (ST/ESCAP/1294)

The Contribution of Transnational Mining Corporations to the Asia-Pacific Region (ST/ESCAP/1188)

Directory of Trade Promotion/Development Organizations of Developing Countries and Areas in Asia and the Pacific (sixth edition) *1993* (ST/ESCAP/1358)

ESCAP Minerals Database System (ST/ESCAP/1191)

Exhibitor's Handbook of the Asia-Pacific International Trade Fair (ASPAT '94) (ST/ESCAP/1309)

Foreign Investment Incentive Schemes: 9, Viet Nam (ST/ESCAP/1287)

Guidebook on Trading with the People's Republic of China (fourth edition) *1993* (ST/ESCAP/1232)

Handbook on Trading with the Russian Federation (ST/ESCAP/1315)

Intraregional Trade Research in Asia and the Pacific and the Role of Research Institutions: An Overview of the Issues and Case-studies (ST/ESCAP/1319)

Market Developments and Export Expansion of Horticultural Products in the ESCAP Region: Proceedings of the Regional Workshop on Market Development and Export Expansion of Horticultural Products in the ESCAP Region, Bangkok, 29 September-2 October 1992 (ST/ESCAP/1257)

Mineral Resources Development and the Environment (ST/ESCAP/1192)

Minerals and Metals Trade in the Asia-Pacific Region (ST/ESCAP/1247)

Minerals and Metals Trading (ST/ESCAP/1268)

Negotiating Mineral Industry Agreements and Contracts (ST/ESCAP/1267)

Prices of Selected Asia/Pacific Products, April 1993-March 1994

Promotion of International Competitiveness and Exports of Manufactured Goods in Asian Countries — A Comparative Study (ST/ESCAP/1224)

Proceedings of the Expert Group Meeting on Post-cocoon Operations, Manila, 26-29 October 1992 (ST/ESCAP/1269)

TISNET Trade Information Bulletin, Nos. 263-268

TISNET Trade Information Sheet, Nos. 248-262

Trade Profiles: Bhutan (ST/ESCAP/1355)

Traders' Manual for Asia and the Pacific: Japan (ST/ESCAP/1276); New Zealand (ST/ESCAP/1216)

Industrial and technological development

Industrial Development News for Asia and the Pacific, Nos. 20 and 21 (double issue) (ST/ESCAP/1245)

New Technologies and Industrial Transformation in Asian-Pacific Developing Economies (ST/ESCAP/1238)

Patent Laws, Regulations and Organizational Structure: Report on the Expert Group Meeting on Patent Laws, Regulations and Organizational Structure, 25-27 November 1992, Republic of Korea (ST/ESCAP/1255)

Promoting International Competitiveness and Efficient Resource Utilization in Manufacturing in Asia and the Pacific: Case-studies of China, Viet Nam, Lao People's Democratic Republic and Mongolia (ST/ESCAP/1239)

Promoting International Competitiveness and Efficient Resource Utilization in Manufacturing in Asia and the Pacific: Proceedings of the Regional Seminar, Beijing, 17-21 December 1991 (ST/ESCAP/1237)

Prospects of Economic and Technical Cooperation in Standardization, Quality Control and Testing Facilities: The Role of National Standards Systems in Industrial Development (ST/ESCAP/1281)

Seoul Plan of Action for Promoting Industrial Restructuring in Asia and the Pacific (ST/ESCAP/1182)

Small Industry Bulletin for Asia and the Pacific, Nos. 26 and 27 (double issue) (ST/ESCAP/SER.M/44)

Tehran Declaration on Strengthening Regional Cooperation for Technology-led Industrialization in Asia and the Pacific: Regional Strategy and Action Plan for Industrial and Technological Development (ST/ESCAP/1172)

RNAM Newsletter, Nos. 46-48

Special Bulletin on Existing Policies and Strategies for Agricultural Mechanization in RNAM Participating Countries

Committee on Environment and Sustainable Development

Energy

Electric Power in Asia and the Pacific, 1989 and 1990 (ST/ESCAP/1286)

Energy Pricing Policies and Issues: Studies on India, Indonesia, the Philippines, Sri Lanka and Thailand (ST/ESCAP/1242)

ESCAP Energy News, vol. IX, No. 2; vol. X, No. 1 (double issue), and No. 2

Sectoral Energy Demand Studies in Asia: Proceedings of a Regional Workshop, Bangkok, 23-27 March 1992 (ST/ESCAP/1236)

Small-scale Wind Energy Conversion Systems (ST/ESCAP/1260)

Environment

Environmental News Briefing (monthly), vol. 7, Nos. 3-12; vol. 8, Nos. 1 and 2

ESCAP Environment News, vol. 10, Nos. 3 and 4; vol. 11, Nos. 1 and 2

Living with the Environment: Promoting Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific (ST/ESCAP/1168)

Natural resources (including marine affairs)

Asian-Pacific Remote Sensing Journal, vol. 6, Nos. 1 and 2

Atlas of Mineral Resources of the ESCAP Region, vol. 9, *Geology and Mineral Resources of Nepal, Explanatory Brochure* (ST/ESCAP/1250); vol. 10, *Cambodia, Explanatory Brochure* (ST/ESCAP/1306)

Atlas of Urban Geology, vol. 7, *Thematic Maps for Urban Planning* (ST/ESCAP/1374)

Confluence, Nos. 20 and 21

ESCAP Atlas of Stratigraphy XII, Regional Correlation, Bibliography of East and South-East Asia, Summary of French Literature on the Quaternary of Cambodia, Lao People's Democratic Republic and Viet Nam (ST/ESCAP/1275); XIII, *Quaternary Stratigraphy and Paleoenvironments of Australia, China, Indonesia, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Thailand and Viet Nam* (ST/ESCAP/1344)

Kuroko-type Mineralization in Asia and the Pacific (ST/ESCAP/1171)

The Potential for Development of Offshore Construction Sand and Gravel in East Asia (ST/ESCAP/1341)

Remote Sensing for Tropical Ecosystem Management: Report of the Regional Remote Sensing Seminar on Tropical Ecosystem Management, Kuching, Malaysia, 8-14 September 1993 (ST/ESCAP/1323)

Remote Sensing Newsletter, vol. 10, No. 4; vol. 11, Nos. 1-3

Report of the Meeting of the Eminent Experts on Space Applications for Development in the Asia-Pacific Region, Bangkok, 27-30 October 1993 (ST/ESCAP/1331)

Report of the Ninth Session of the Intergovernmental Consultative Committee on the ESCAP Regional Remote Sensing Programme and Proceedings of the Meeting of the Directors of National Remote Sensing Centres/Programmes in the ESCAP Region (ST/ESCAP/1291)

Study on the Implications of the New Ocean Regime Deriving from the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, vol. III, *Sri Lanka and the Law of the Sea* (ST/ESCAP/1332)

Urban Water Resources Management, Water Resources Series No. 72 (ST/ESCAP/SER.F/72)

Water Resources Journal, March 1992-March 1994 (ST/ESCAP/SER.C/172-180)

Committee on Poverty Alleviation through Economic Growth and Social Development

Agricultural and rural development

Agro-chemicals News in Brief, vol. XVI, Nos. 1-4; special issue, November 1993

Balanced Fertilizer Use: Its Practical Importance and Guidelines for Agriculture in the Asia-Pacific Region (ST/ESCAP/1380)

Calendar of Meetings on Agro-chemicals, vol. 12, Nos. 3 and 4; vol. 13, No. 1

Fertilizer Legislation Status in Selected Developing Countries of Asia and the Pacific (ST/ESCAP/1162)

Fertilizer Trade Information Monthly Bulletin, April 1993-March 1994

Non-farm Employment for Rural Poverty Alleviation: A Report on the Regional Seminar, Pilot Projects and Country Papers (ST/ESCAP/1274)

Partners in Rural Poverty Alleviation — NGO Cooperation (ST/ESCAP/1211)

Poverty Alleviation Initiatives, vol. 2, No. 2; vol. 3, No. 1

Proceedings of the Regional FADINAP Seminar on Fertilization and the Environment, Chiang Mai, Thailand, 7-11 September 1992 (ST/ESCAP/1256)

Regional Cooperation in Farm Broadcasting — An Impact Assessment Study of ESCAP Activities in Farm Broadcasting and Rural Communication between 1979 and 1992 (ST/ESCAP/1365)

Regional Information Support Service (RISS), vol. 17, Nos. 1-12

Training Manual on Satellite Crop Monitoring (ST/ESCAP/1314)

Human resources development

ESCAP HRD Newsletter, No. 5

Women in Politics in Asia and the Pacific: Proceedings of the Seminar on the Participation of Women in Politics as an Aspect of Human Resources Development (ST/ESCAP/1307)

Human settlements

State of Urbanization in Asia and the Pacific 1993 (ST/ESCAP/1300)

State of Urbanization in Asia and the Pacific 1993: Executive Summary (ST/ESCAP/1308)

Population

Asia-Pacific POPIN Bulletin, vol. 5, Nos. 1-3

Asia-Pacific Population Journal, vol. 8, No. 2 (ST/ESCAP/1288); No. 3 (ST/ESCAP/1322); No.4 (ST/ESCAP/1338)

Asian Population Studies Series: No. 113, *Studies on Consequences of Population Change in Asia: Comparative Findings* (ST/ESCAP/1202); No. 115, *Report of the Fourth Asian and Pacific Population Conference, 19-27 August 1992, Bali, Indonesia* (ST/ESCAP/1198); No. 116, *Family Planning Programmes in Asia and the Pacific: Implications for the 1990s* (ST/ESCAP/1189); No. 117, *Regional Report on Interaction between Clients and Grass-roots Family Planning Workers: Implications for Programme Performance* (ST/ESCAP/1290); No. 118, *Studies on Consequences of Population Change in Asia: Malaysia* (ST/ESCAP/1244); No. 119, ibid.: *Thailand* (ST/ESCAP/1217); No. 120, ibid.: *Bangladesh* (ST/ESCAP/1214); No. 121, ibid.: *Philippines* (ST/ESCAP/1218); No. 122, *Urbanization and Socio-economic Development in Asia and the Pacific*, vol. I (ST/ESCAP/1277); No. 124, *Selected Papers from the Fourth Asian and Pacific Population Conference* (ST/ESCAP/1299); No. 125, *Report of the Asia-Pacific POPIN Consultative Workshop, Bali, Indonesia, 16-18 August 1992* (ST/ESCAP/1278); No. 128, *Population Change: Women's Role and Status and Development* (ST/ESCAP/1308); No. 129, *Productive Ageing in Asia and the Pacific* (ST/ESCAP/1302)

Catalogue of ESCAP Population Publications, 1993 (ST/ESCAP/1351)

ESCAP Population Data Sheet, 1994

Population Headliners, Nos. 218-228

Population Research Leads, Nos. 43-45

Social development

Asia-Pacific Fact Sheet on Drug Abuse Demand Reduction, No. 1; No. 2, special issue

Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 1993-2002: The Starting Point (ST/ESCAP/1342)

Compendium of Social Development Indicators in the ESCAP Region (ST/ESCAP/1293)

Directory on Self-help Organizations of People with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific (ST/ESCAP/1330)

National Policies and Programmes for the Family in Asia and the Pacific (ST/ESCAP/1303)

Policies and Programmes Concerning the Integration of Elderly Persons in Development: Two Case-studies (ST/ESCAP/1346)

Rehabilitation of Juvenile Delinquents in the ESCAP Region (ST/ESCAP/1272)

The Role of the Family in Development: Four Studies of the Situation in Asia and the Pacific (ST/ESCAP/1304)

Social Development Newsletter, Nos. 28 and 29

Women in development

Directory of National Focal Points for the Advancement of Women in Asia and the Pacific, 1993 (ST/ESCAP/1271)

Directory of Women Experts in Asia and the Pacific (ST/ESCAP/1352)

Report on the Asian and Pacific Symposium of Non-governmental Organizations on Women in Development, Manila, 16-20 November 1993 (ST/ESCAP/1378)

WINAP Newsletter, Nos. 12 and 13

Committee on Transport and Communications

Transport and communications

Decade News, No. 3

ESCAP Directory of Railway Training Institutions 1993 (ST/ESCAP/1297)

ESCAP Guide to Railway Research, 1993 (ST/ESCAP/1280)

ESCAP Handbook on Container Terminals in the Region, 1993 (ST/ESCAP/1349)

ESCAP/UNDP Manual on Electronic Data Interchange in Transport (ST/ESCAP/1356)

Fuel Efficiency Investment Appraisal: A Review of the Developments on Fuel Cost Saving Measures in Shipping (ST/ESCAP/1313)

Guidelines for Conversion of Diesel Buses to Compressed Natural Gas (ST/ESCAP/1361)

Infrastructure Development as Key to Economic Growth and Regional Economic Cooperation (ST/ESCAP/1364)

An Institutional Guide to Roads and Road Transport 1993 (ST/ESCAP/1326)

Manual and Computer Software for Regional Container Flows and Shipping Requirements (ST/ESCAP/1144)

Port Capacity Models (ST/ESCAP/1345)

Port Marketing Handbook (ST/ESCAP/1310)

Port Statistical Review for the ESCAP Region (ST/ESCAP/1125)

Proceedings of the IMO/ESCAP Seminar on Environmentally Sound Port Development and Management, Yokohama, Japan, 31 August-4 September 1992 (ST/ESCAP/1212)

Report of the Country-level Workshop on Financial/Economic Planning Models — Container Terminal Module, Bangkok, 7-11 June 1993 (ST/ESCAP/1282)

Report of the Country-level Workshop on Strategic Port Pricing and the ESCAP/UNDP Model Port Tariff Structure, Calcutta, India, 30 November-4 December 1992 (ST/ESCAP/1252)

Report of the Regional Seminar on Inland Container Depot Financial/Economic Planning Model, Bangkok, 14-18 December 1992 (ST/ESCAP/1251)

Report of the Regional Seminar on Strategic Port Pricing and the ESCAP/UNDP Model Port Tariff Structure, Bangkok, 8-12 December 1992 (ST/ESCAP/1253)

Review of Developments in Transport and Communications in the ESCAP Region 1993 (ST/ESCAP/1333)

Study of the Impact of the Ship Users' Cooperation Project on the Shippers' Movement in the ESCAP Region (ST/ESCAP/1229)

Study on Inter-island Shipping in the Pacific (ST/ESCAP/1340)

Transport and Communications Bulletin for Asia and the Pacific, No. 63 (ST/ESCAP/SER.E/63)

Tourism

The Economic Impact of Tourism in Bangladesh (ST/ESCAP/1181); *India* (ST/ESCAP/1176); *Pakistan* (ST/ESCAP/1177); *the Philippines* (ST/ESCAP/1175); *Republic of Korea* (ST/ESCAP/1201); *Sri Lanka* (ST/ESCAP/1285)

ESCAP Tourism Newsletter, Nos. 2 and 3

ESCAP Tourism Review No. 9, *Sustainable Tourism Development in Pacific Island Countries* (ST/ESCAP/1165); No. 10, *Tourism Development in Selected Least Developed Countries and Viet Nam* (ST/ESCAP/1249); No. 12, *Feasibility Study on the Arona Valley Tourism Development Project* (ST/ESCAP/1292)

Sustainable Tourism Development in Pacific Island Countries (ST/ESCAP/1220)

Committee on Statistics

Statistics

Asia-Pacific in Figures 1993

Foreign Trade Statistics of Asia and the Pacific 1986-1990 (ST/ESCAP/1273); *1987-1991* (ST/ESCAP/1335)

Government Computerization Newsletter, No. 3

Improving Timeliness and Quality of Survey Statistics: Some Measures and Recommendations (ST/ESCAP/1289)

Statistical Indicators for Asia and the Pacific, vol. XXIII, No. 1 (ST/ESCAP/1270); No. 2 (ST/ESCAP/1284); No. 3 (ST/ESCAP/1301); No. 4 (ST/ESCAP/1336)

Statistical Newsletter, Nos. 88-92

Statistical Yearbook for Asia and the Pacific, 1992 (ST/ESCAP/1228), and *1993* (ST/ESCAP/1339)

Special Body on Least Developed and Land-locked Developing Countries

Mobilization of Financial Resources in the ESCAP Least Developed Countries (ST/ESCAP/1223)

Special Body on Pacific Island Developing Countries

Pacific Island Countries — Economic Performance and Selected Issues in Policy Management and Adjustment (ST/ESCAP/1353)

Selected Readings on Project Planning (ST/ESCAP/1295)

B. List of meetings

Committee for Regional Economic Cooperation

Development issues and policies

National Workshops on Economic Reforms: Alma-Ata, June 1993; Ulaanbaatar, September 1993; and Tashkent, December 1993

Consultants' Meeting on Recent Experience in Tax System Reforms with Special Reference to the Impact on Income Distribution and Poverty, Bangkok, September 1993

Expert Group Meeting on Development Issues and Policies, Bangkok, December 1993

International trade and development finance

Government Consultation Among Jute Producing Countries (fourteenth session), Bangkok, May 1993

Expert Group Meeting on Development of Transitional Economies in North-East Asia through Intraregional Trade Expansion and Subregional Economic Cooperation, Changchun, China, June-July 1993

National Seminars on the Generalized System of Preferences of Japan for Viet Nam: Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City, September 1993

Expert Group Meeting on an International Silk Information System, Bangkok, September 1993

Second Symposium on Trade and Economic Cooperation between China and the Asia-Pacific Region, Beijing, October 1993

Seminar on Enhancement of National Trade Information Capabilities through Modern Technology, Manila, November 1993

Seminar on Access to the Japanese Market and Field Visit to Study the Japanese Market, Tokyo, November 1993

Exhibition of Handicrafts (gift items) from Asian Least Developed Countries, Tokyo, November 1993

Expert Group Meeting on the Expansion of Trade in Vegetable Oils for Edible Use and for the Oleochemicals Industry, Bangkok, November 1993

Seminar on the Expansion of Exports of Manufactured Products from Small and Medium Enterprises, Bangkok, November-December 1993

Regional Workshop on Export Credit Finance, Guarantees and Insurance, Bangkok, December 1993

ESCAP/UNDP Regional Workshop on Networking of Trade-related Research Institutions in Asia and the Pacific, Kathmandu, December 1993

Standing Committee of the Bangkok Agreement (fourteenth session), Bangkok, December 1993

Consultative Meeting of Executive Heads of Subregional Organizations, Bangkok, February 1994

Asia-Pacific Consultative Forum on Coffee, Jakarta, February 1994

Drafting Workshop for the Study on the Development of the Export-oriented Electronic Sector in Asia and the Pacific, Kuala Lumpur, March 1994

Industrial and technological development

Seminar on Dyestuff Manufacturing Technology for Commercialization, Beijing, August 1993

Workshop-cum-Study Tour on Science and Technology for Plant-growth Regulators, Beijing, September-October 1993

Expert Group Consultation on Strategies for Technology-led Development and Restructuring in Asia and the Pacific, Bangkok, October 1993

ESCAP/WASME Regional Symposium on Financing of Small and Medium Enterprises in Asia and the Pacific, New Delhi, November 1993

Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology, Technical Advisory Committee (ninth session); Governing Board (eighth session); New Delhi, November 1993

Consultative Expert Group Meeting on Technological Upgrading of Agro-based Industries: Development and Popularization of Appropriate Industrial Technology for Food Processing in Least Developed and Land-locked Developing Countries, Bangkok, November 1993

Regional Forum for Sustainable Industrial Development and Restructuring in Asia and the Pacific, Kuala Lumpur, December 1993

AGRIMACH '93 Agricultural Machinery Exhibition and Symposium, Jakarta, December 1993

Regional Network for Agricultural Machinery, Technical Advisory Committee (seventeenth session); Governing Body (fifteenth session); Jakarta, December 1993

Regional Symposium on Privatization, Karachi, Pakistan, January-February 1994

Committee on Environment and Sustainable Development

Energy

Training Course on Business Opportunities in Marketing Energy Efficiency, Bangkok, December 1993

Workshop of Regional Policy Makers on National Strategies and Regional Cooperation in Energy Efficiency Promotion, Bangkok, March 1994

Environment

Regional Meeting on Financing of Environmentally Sound Development, Bangkok, June 1993

Workshop on Hazardous Waste Management in Asia and the Pacific, Bangkok, August 1993

Working Group of the Inter-agency Committee on Environment and Development (second meeting), Bangkok, September 1993; (third meeting), Bangkok, February 1994

Consultative Meeting on the Development of a Regional Strategy on Climate Change, Bangkok, October 1993

Regional Workshop on a Reference Book on the Environment in Asia and the Pacific, Kathmandu, November 1993

ESCAP/UNEP/AIT (Asian Institute of Technology) Consultative Meeting on Resource Valuation in Subnational Planning, Bangkok, December 1993

ESCAP/UNEP/SACEP Workshop on Management Strategies for the Protection of the Coastal and Marine Environment in the South Asian Seas Region, Colombo, December 1993

ESCAP/UNEP Regional Seminar on People's Participation in Mangrove Rehabilitation and Management, Yangon, February 1994

ESCAP/UNEP Expert-level Workshop on the Prevention of Illegal Traffic in Hazardous Wastes, Tokyo, March 1994

ESCAP/UNEP Meeting on the Asia-Pacific Input to the International Convention to Combat Desertification, Bangkok, March 1994

Natural resources (including marine affairs)

Meeting of the Directors of the National Remote Sensing Centres/Programmes in the ESCAP Region, Islamabad, May 1993

Round Table Conference on Legal and Fiscal Regimes for Promotion of Foreign Investment in the Mining Industry, Beijing, May 1993

Intergovernmental Consultative Committee on the Regional Remote Sensing Programme (ninth session), Islamabad, May 1993

Interagency Task Force on Water for Asia and the Pacific (thirty-first session), Bangkok, May 1993; (thirty-second session), December 1993

Regional Remote Sensing Seminar on Tropical Ecosystem Management, Kuching, Malaysia, September 1993

Roving Seminar on Comprehensive Flood Loss Prevention and Management: Solomon Islands, Honiara, September 1993

Expert Group Meeting Preparatory to the First Session of the Committee on Environment and Sustainable Development, Bangkok, September-October 1993

Second International Round Table Conference on Mining Law, Hanoi, October 1993

Final Meeting and Working Group on Quaternary Correlation in the Asia-Pacific Region, Khon Kaen, Thailand, October 1993

Meeting of the Eminent Experts on Space Applications for Development in the Asia-Pacific Region, Bangkok, October 1993

International Seminar on Remote Sensing for Coastal Zones and Coral Reef Applications, Bangkok, October-November 1993

Second Workshop-cum-Study Tour on Industrial Minerals Development, China, October-November 1993

Typhoon Committee (twenty-sixth session), Manila, November 1993

National Seminar on Urban Water Management, Hanoi, November 1993

Workshop on Geochemistry and Gold Exploration, Chiang Mai, Thailand, February 1994

Consultative Group Meeting of Senior Experts Preparatory to the Ministerial Conference on Space Applications for Development in Asia and the Pacific, Bangkok, March 1994

WMO/ESCAP Panel on Tropical Cyclones (twenty-first session), Yangon, March 1994

Committee on Poverty Alleviation through Economic Growth and Social Development

Agricultural and rural development

Regional Workshop on Human Resources Development for Utilization of Agricultural Residues as Energy Source, Beijing, May 1993

Workshop on Employment Strategies for the Rural Poor, Bangkok, July 1993

FADINAP Regional Workshop on Cooperation in Soil-testing for Asia and the Pacific, Bangkok, August 1993

Expert Group Meeting on Sensitizing Agricultural Research to Community Development Needs, Bangkok, August 1993

FADINAP/FAI (Fertilizer Association of India)/AIC (Agriculture Inputs Corporation, of Nepal) Marketing Management Training Programme, Kathmandu, September 1993

Brain-storming Training Workshop on FADINAP, Bangkok, September 1993

National Training Course on Environmental Issues Related to Fertilization, Islamabad, October 1993

FADINAP/NFIS (Network of Fertilizer Information Systems) Regional Consultation on Sustainability of National Cooperating Centres, Bangkok, November 1993

IFA (International Fertilizer Industry Association/ FADINAP Regional Fertilizer Conference for Asia and the Pacific, Manila, November-December 1993

Regional Coordination Centre for Research and Development of Coarse Grains, Pulses, Roots and Tuber Crops in the Humid Tropics of Asia and the Pacific, Technical Advisory Committee (eleventh session), Bogor, Indonesia, November-December 1993; Governing Board (twelfth session), Bogor, Indonesia, December 1993

Human resources development

Expert Group Meeting to Review the Jakarta Plan of Action on Human Resources Development in the ESCAP Region, Bangkok, January 1994

Workshop on Promoting the Role of the Private Sector in Human Resources Development, Bangkok and Buriram, Thailand, March 1994

Human settlements

Workshop on Subnational Area Planning: Ho Chi Minh City, Viet Nam, July 1993

Second Meeting of the Inter-organizational Task Force on the Preparation for the Ministerial Conference on Urbanization and its Follow-up Activities, Bangkok, July 1993

Meeting on the Establishment of the Network of Human Settlements Research and Training Institutes in Asia and the Pacific, New Delhi, September 1993

Steering Committee of the Network of Research and Training Institutes on Human Settlements (TRISHNET) (first meeting), New Delhi, September-October 1993; (second meeting), Bangkok, October 1993

Meetings preparatory to the Ministerial Conference on Urbanization in Asia and the Pacific: Preparatory Meeting of Senior Officials, Bangkok, October 1993; Symposium of the Media, Bangkok, October 1993; Symposium of Local Authorities, Bangkok, October 1993; Symposium of Non-governmental Organizations, Bangkok, October 1993

Asia-Pacific Urban Forum, Bangkok, October 1993

High-level Policy Seminar on Financial Management of Local Authorities, Bombay, India, November 1993

Third Congress of the Regional Network of Local Authorities for the Management of Human Settlements, Bombay, India, November 1993

High-level Seminar on Shelter for the Urban Poor, Bombay, India, November 1993

International Training Course on Dwelling Construction Technology, Nanjing, China, December 1993

ESCAP/ACHR (Asian Coalition for Housing Rights)/CITYNET Symposium on a Place to Live: Solutions to Eviction, Bangkok, January 1994

Inter-organizational Committee on Urbanization, Bangkok, February 1994

UTDA (United Town Development Agency)/ESCAP/CITYNET/AIT High-level Training Seminar on Urban Environment Policies, Bangkok, March 1994

Population

Training Workshop on Information Technologies and Population Science for Population Information Professionals, Beijing, October 1993

Study Directors Meeting on Local-level Policy Development to Deal with the Consequences of Population Ageing, Chiang Mai, Thailand, November 1993

Workshop on Population Information Needs Assessment, Kuala Lumpur, November 1993

ASEAN and East Asia POPIN Workshop, Kuala Lumpur, November 1993

Round Table on Population and Development Strategies, Bangkok, November 1993

International Seminar on Consequences of Replacement and Below-replacement Level Fertility in East and South-East Asia, Seoul, November-December 1993

Study Directors Meeting on Rural-urban Migration, Bangkok, December 1993

Study Directors Meeting on Population Change, Women's Role and Status, and Development, Bangkok, January 1994

Senior Officials Meeting on Targets and Goals of the Bali Declaration on Population and Sustainable Development: Implementation Strategy, Bangkok, January 1994

Workshop on Demographic Data Analysis, Bangkok, January 1994

Study Directors Meeting on Using Population Data for Local Area Development Planning in the Countries of the ESCAP Region, Bangkok, February 1994

Social development

Asian and Pacific Preparatory Meeting for the International Year of the Family, Beijing, May 1993

Workshops of National Focal Points on Drug Abuse Demand Reduction: Golden Triangle Countries, Bangkok, August 1993; Golden Crescent Countries, Bangkok, August 1993; Pacific Countries, October 1993

Training Course on Reduction in the Demand for Consumption of Narcotics in Border Areas of China and Myanmar, Bangkok, September-October 1993

Asia-Pacific Inter-organizational Task Force on Disability-related Concerns (eighth meeting), Bangkok, October 1993; (ninth meeting), Bangkok, March 1994

Training Course on the Development of Integrated Community-based Approaches to Drug Abuse Demand Reduction, Kathmandu and Biratnagar, Nepal, November 1993

Inter-agency Task Force on Implementation of the Social Development Strategy for the ESCAP Region Towards the Year 2000 and Beyond (second meeting), Bangkok, November 1993

Workshops on Management of Self-help Organizations of People with Disabilities: South Asia, Dhaka, December 1993; East and South-East Asia, Bacolod City, Philippines, January 1994

Women in development

Second Inter-agency Meeting on Preparations for the Second Asian and Pacific Conference on Women in Development, Bangkok, May 1993

National Workshop on a Legal Literacy Programme for Women, Fiji, August 1993

National Workshop on a Women's Information Network, Mongolia, November 1993

Asian and Pacific Symposium of Non-governmental Organizations on Women in Development, Manila, November 1993

Expert Group Meeting on Women in Development, Bangkok, February 1994

Committee on Transport and Communications

Transport and communications

Country-level Workshop on the Transport Financial/Economic Planning Model for Inland Container Depots, Phnom Penh, April-May 1993

ESCAP/UNCTAD Country-level Workshops on Multimodal Transport, Seoul, May 1993; Singapore, June 1993; Hanoi, August 1993; Bangkok, November-December 1993; India, February 1994; Colombo, February-March 1994; Malaysia, March 1994

Country-level Workshops on Electronic Data Interchange, Jakarta, May 1993; Bangkok, December 1993

Country-level Workshop on PORTMIS, Bintulu, Malaysia, May 1993

Country-level Workshop on the Transport Financial/Economic Planning Model for Container Terminals, Bangkok, June 1993

ESCAP/CIT (Chartered Institute of Transport) Conference on "Multimodal Transport Asia-Pacific '93", Singapore, June 1993

Ad hoc Meeting of the Inter-agency Steering Committee on Phase II (1992-1996) of the Transport and Communications Decade for Asia and the Pacific, Geneva, July 1993

Seminar-cum-Study Tour on Compressed Natural Gas Technologies for Road Transport, Germany, August-September 1993

Country-level Workshops on Facilitation of Maritime Traffic, Islamic Republic of Iran, September 1993; Manila, November 1993

Country-level Training of Trainers on PORTMIS, Madras, India, October 1993; Colombo, October 1993; Islamic Republic of Iran, November 1993

Country-level Workshop on the Implementation of the Regional Maritime Strategy Study and Prospects for Container Shipping and Port Development, Colombo, October 1993

ESCAP/UNCTAD/CIDA (Canadian International Development Agency) Country-level Workshop on Multimodal Transport Management, Jakarta, October 1993

Conference on Asian Road Safety (Cars '93), Kuala Lumpur, October 1993

Expert Group Meeting on the Development of the Asian Highway Network, Bangkok, November-December 1993

Second Meeting of the Inter-agency Steering Committee on Phase II (1992-1996) of the Transport and Communications Decade for Asia and the Pacific, Bangkok, December 1993

Tourism

Seminar on Investment and Cooperation in the Tourism Sector in Pacific Island Countries, Tokyo, October 1993

Expert Group Meeting on Tourism Training, Bangkok, November-December 1993

Committee on Statistics

Workshop on the Development and Improvement of Environment Statistics, Kathmandu, May-June 1993

Expert Group Meeting on National Poverty Concepts and Measurement in the ESCAP Region, Bangkok, September 1993

Working Group of Statistical Experts (eighth session), Bangkok, November 1993

SIAP/ESCAP Workshop on Managing National Statistical Services in the 1990s — Data Dissemination with Focus on Monitoring Human Development, Bangkok, November 1993

Regional Training Workshop for Core Members of National Working Groups on Gender Statistics, Bangkok, January 1994

C. List of advisory services

Committee for Regional Economic Cooperation

Development issues and policies

(a) Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia and Uzbekistan, on macroeconomic management and economic reform;

(b) Bangladesh, on macroeconomic management and economic reform;

(c) China: (i) on economic forecasting; (ii) to represent ESCAP at the International Conference on Economic Cooperation in North-East Asia; and (iii) to serve as resource person at the Conference on the Asia-Pacific Region and Economic Development of the Shantou Special Economic Zone;

(d) Indonesia, to serve as resource person at the workshop on private sector promotion;

(e) Japan, to represent ESCAP at the preparatory meeting of the Forum for Comprehensive Development of Indo-China;

(f) Malaysia, on the formulation of a new regional poverty programme;

(g) Philippines: (i) to represent ESCAP at the Inception Meeting of the Indonesia-Malaysia-Thailand Growth Triangle; (ii) to participate in the sixth workshop on the Asian economic outlook; (iii) to represent ESCAP at the Conference on Subregional Economic Cooperation; and (iv) to serve as resource person at the third seminar on international finance;

(h) Thailand: (i) to participate in the 1993 Year-end Conference on Thailand's Economy; and (ii) to represent ESCAP at the Indo-China Socio-economic Dialogue;

(i) Viet Nam, on holding a national workshop on economic reform.

International trade and development finance

(a) Bangladesh, on strengthening the role of the Asian Clearing Union;

(b) Bangladesh, Bhutan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar and Nepal, on the exhibition of handicrafts (gift items) from Asian least developed countries;

(c) Democratic People's Republic of Korea, on trade policy relating to the establishment of a free trade zone;

(d) Fiji, on trade policy issues, particularly its membership of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT);

(e) Kiribati and Tuvalu, on trade and investment policy issues and promotion of trade and investment linkages with Asia;

(f) Maldives, on the need for a trade database and review of trade policy;

(g) Sri Lanka, on a comprehensive trade review of Sri Lanka;

(h) Thailand, on strengthening the role of the Asian Reinsurance Corporation.

Industrial and technological development

(a) China, India, Pakistan and the Philippines, on assessment, selection and management of information technology and promotion of regional cooperation;

(b) Malaysia, to develop a conceptual framework for a study of science and technology manpower forecasting and development;

(c) Pakistan, on promotion of technological transformation through contribution to the national seminar on application of the Technology Atlas.

Committee on Environment and Sustainable Development

Energy

(a) Cambodia: (i) on hydrocarbon agreements; and (ii) to lecture on the role of hydrocarbon exploration in the national economy;

(b) Philippines, on energy conservation in the industrial sector.

Environment

(a) Bangladesh and India, on integrating environmental considerations into development planning and policy formulation;

(b) India, on ecologically sustainable industrial development;

(c) India and Sri Lanka, on capacity-building and managing coastal areas;

(d) Indonesia, to the ASEAN Senior Officials on Environment, on the preparation of the ASEAN Plan of Action on Environment;

(e) Maldives, to strengthen institutional capacity for the protection of the marine environment and coastal areas;

(f) Myanmar, to assist in preparation of the national environmental policy plan;

(g) Myanmar and Singapore, to assist in using an exhibition on the environment as a vehicle for promoting environmental awareness;

(h) Philippines, on soil erosion and sedimentation control in irrigation works;

(i) Vanuatu, to the regional technical meeting for the Indian and Pacific oceans;

(j) Viet Nam, on coastal and marine environmental management.

Natural resources (including marine resources)

(a) Bhutan, on industrial minerals development;

(b) Cambodia: (i) on the mineral sector; and (ii) on technical assistance needs in mineral resources development;

(c) China, to advise the National Remote Sensing Center of China and assist in the preparation of a technical symposium for the Ministerial Conference on Space Applications for Development in Asia and the Pacific;

(d) Cook Islands, to evaluate GIS projects and propose a new remote sensing and GIS integration plan;

(e) Democratic People's Republic of Korea, on remote sensing and GIS, and to advise on the establishment of a national remote sensing programme;

(f) Fiji, on establishing remote sensing image processing and GIS;

(g) Indonesia, to evaluate existing GIS projects and propose future developments;

(h) Islamic Republic of Iran, on irrigation projects;

(i) Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan, to assess the potential for development of the mineral resources industry within a market economy;

(j) Malaysia, on utilization of clay materials and evaluation of epithermal gold mineralization;

(k) Niue, on remote sensing mapping and to prepare guidelines for forest mapping using remote sensing data;

(l) Pakistan, to assist in initiating pilot projects in connection with the regional cooperation meeting of national directors of space agencies;

(m) Philippines, on the preparation of guidelines for the review of water resources projects and to advise on sedimentation problems in canal systems;

(n) Samoa, on the establishment of GIS;

(o) Singapore, to advise the ASEAN remote sensing working group;

(p) Sri Lanka, on the negotiation of a joint venture for the manufacture of phosphate fertilizer utilizing the Eppawela phosphate deposit;

(q) Vanuatu: (i) on small hydroelectric schemes; and (ii) to identify minihydropower potential;

(r) Viet Nam, to discuss implementation modalities for the UNDP/Australia project on mineral law in Viet Nam, and the status of approval of the exploration project in Cho Dien for the United Nations Revolving Fund for Natural Resources Exploration (UNRFNRE).

Committee on Poverty Alleviation through Economic Growth and Social Development

Agricultural and rural development

(a) Bangladesh, on environmental issues in fertilization, particularly toxic heavy metal contamination in soils and fertilizers;

(b) Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines and Singapore, to initiate data entry of recommendations on pesticide use;

(c) Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Philippines and Singapore, to coordinate meetings of project scientific counterparts and ASEAN counterparts and to assess the progress of the data entry on recommendations on pesticide use;

(d) Mongolia, on the establishment of the FADINAP/NFIS National Cooperating Centre;

(e) Lao People's Democratic Republic, on soil-sampling, balanced fertilization and environmental issues involved with fertilizer use;

(f) Sri Lanka, on training staff members of the National Fertilizer Secretariat on CDS/ISIS software for operating bibliographic databases;

(g) Viet Nam, on an environmental monitoring study.

Human settlements

(a) Bangladesh, Malaysia and Pakistan, on municipal finance;

(b) Nepal, on urban planning;

(c) Viet Nam, on the introduction of environmental assessment in urban development planning and management.

Population

(a) Bangladesh and India, to participate and assist in the national workshop on local-level policy development to deal with the consequences of population ageing;

(b) Cambodia, to assist the UNDP office in Phnom Penh in preparing the population and labour force modules of the Household Survey questionnaire;

(c) China, to conduct a training workshop on information technologies and population science for population information professionals;

(d) India, to monitor the country study on population change, and women's role and status, and development;

(e) India and Malaysia, to provide technical assistance and consultation to the study team regarding the plan of analysis for the project on trends, patterns and implications of rural-urban migration in the ESCAP region;

(f) Indonesia, to provide consultancy and technical assistance to the Demographic Institute of the Faculty of Economics, University of Indonesia, in the national workshop on ageing;

(g) Islamic Republic of Iran, Maldives and Nepal, to carry out a programme review and strategy development exercise, the recommendations from which would constitute the basis for the development of a national population programme and the formulation of the first UNFPA-supported country programme;

(h) Malaysia: (i) to provide assistance for the study on rural-urban migration and identify a study director for phase II; and (ii) to represent ESCAP and deliver technical papers at the workshop on population information needs assessment;

(i) Maldives, to carry out a programme review and strategy development exercise;

(j) Myanmar, to assess the feasibility of establishing a national POPIN centre in the Department of Planning and Statistics, Ministry of Health;

(k) Nepal, to identify country study directors, examine available data sources and provide technical assistance in designing the analysis for the project on trends, patterns and implications of rural-urban migration in the ESCAP region;

(l) Philippines, to monitor country studies on population change, and women's role and status, and development;

(m) Republic of Korea: (i) to attend the Asia-Pacific regional seminar on social science information in commemoration of the tenth anniversary of the Korea Social Science Library and to hold discussions with the Korea Institute for Health and Social Affairs on various issues; and (ii) to make a statement as co-organizer and participate in the international seminar on consequences of replacement and below-replacement level fertility in East and South-East Asia;

(n) Thailand: (i) to attend the orientation workshop for the three UNFPA Country Support Teams for the Asian and Pacific region; (ii) to present a keynote address at and participate in the national workshop on the development of country policies for ageing people; (iii) to attend and give a presentation on the topic "Population problems in relation to family conditions and Thai society" at the Planned Parenthood Association of Thailand Training Programme on Family Life Education and AIDS; (iv) to deliver lectures on technical information management to the tenth course on new information technologies and computerization of library services; and (v) to attend, as ESCAP representative, the National Day for Social Welfare;

(o) Vanuatu, to participate in a senior officials/ ministerial meeting on population and sustainable development;

(p) Viet Nam: (i) to provide consultancy and technical assistance to the Centre for Population and Development Studies in the national workshop on local-level policy development to deal with the consequences of population ageing; and (ii) to evaluate the status and possible relocation of the National POPIN Centre.

Social development

(a) Bangladesh, regarding the demand aspects of drug abuse reduction;

(b) China, to promote the participation of elderly persons in development;

(c) India, in support of the implementation of the Social Development Strategy for the ESCAP Region Towards the Year 2000 and Beyond;

(d) India, Nepal and Philippines, on the development of integrated community-based approaches to drug abuse demand reduction;

(e) Japan, to strengthen self-help organizations of people with disabilities;

(f) Maldives, on social development issues;

(g) Malaysia, on strengthening self-help organizations of disabled persons;

(h) Pakistan, on national preparations for the observance of the International Year of the Family;

(i) Papua New Guinea: (i) on formulation of a national policy on non-governmental organizations; and (ii) on a regional network of national agencies concerned with the demand aspects of drug abuse reduction;

(j) Philippines, in support of implementation of the Social Development Strategy for the ESCAP Region Towards the Year 2000 and Beyond;

(k) Solomon Islands, on social development and policy planning;

(l) Thailand, on development of services for the elderly and on human resources and community planning;

(m) Viet Nam, on legislation for the participation of disabled persons in development.

Women in development

(a) Cambodia, on the national focal points for the advancement of women;

(b) China, to assist in the promotion of a women's information network;

(c) Islamic Republic of Iran, to assist in reviewing information on women and developing a plan for the establishment of a national women's information system;

(d) Islamic Republic of Iran and Sri Lanka, on the integration of women's concerns into development planning;

(e) Mongolia, to assist in developing a plan for the establishment of a women's information system.

Committee on Transport and Communications

Transport and communications

(a) Cambodia, on the rehabilitation of the Port of Sihanoukville;

(b) Cook Islands, Marshall Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu, on port development and installation of PORTCAM software;

(c) Federated States of Micronesia, on the implementation of port planning and management for Pohnpei Port Authority;

(d) Indonesia, on validation of the ESCAP/UNDP Transport Financial/Economic Planning Model: IWT (inland water transport) Module, in Jakarta and Banjamarsin;

(e) Kiribati, on the road sector;

(f) Malaysia: (i) on upgrading of Bintulu Port; and (ii) on the ESCAP/UNDP Transport Financial/ Economic Planning Model: Inland Container Depot Module for the Keluang project;

(g) Philippines, on the application of the Inland Container Depot Module to the Manila project;

(h) Republic of Korea, on maritime policy planning models and transport databases and information systems;

(i) Solomon Islands, on improved management of port facilities;

(j) Sri Lanka, on the implementation process of a cost-based management accounting system, including personnel training and CARDARS installation.

Tourism

Kyrgyzstan, on tourism development

Committee on Statistics

(a) Bangladesh: (i) to assist in designing a computerized management information system in district family planning offices; and (ii) to identify the methodological changes between the System of National Accounts (SNA) and the revised SNA 1993 and recommend new areas for data generation for adoption of the revised SNA, including compilation of accounts of institutional sectors;

(b) Bhutan: (i) to draw up formats for use in the collection of data at the district level; and (ii) to review the methodology of gross domestic product (GDP);

(c) Cambodia, to formulate proposals for conducting a census of Cambodia;

(d) China and Viet Nam, to assist in collecting and compiling price data;

(e) Cook Islands, to review the current system in the light of the revised SNA 1993;

(f) Federated States of Micronesia: (i) to assist in the conduct of a census planning workshop, in preparing draft census questionnaires and reviewing the draft country report for the International Conference on Population and Development; and (ii) on basic data collection and assistance in pre-testing (in collaboration with the Department for Economic and Social Information and Policy Analysis of United Nations Headquarters and the United States Bureau of the Census);

(g) Fiji: (i) to evaluate work performed and assist in revision of the constant price national accounts series; (ii) to assist in preparing a project document for census mapping; and (iii) on the formulation and finalization of the 1996 census project document;

(h) Indonesia, on national accounts statistics;

(i) Kiribati, to assist in preparing the Kiribati country paper for the International Conference on Population and Development and to review the status of the population census project;

(j) Lao People's Democratic Republic: (i) on a data processing system for fertility and birth-spacing; and (ii) to install the Integrated System for Survey Analysis (ISSA) and train programmers and concerned project personnel on ISSA;

(k) Macau, on the compilation of GDP by the production approach;

(l) Maldives, on the use of data from construction cost analyses, population and housing censuses, household income and expenditure survey and establishment surveys in the compilation of national accounts and on the construction of GDP deflators;

(m) Nepal, to assist in the programme for developing institutional sector accounts;

(n) Niue, to assist in formulating the UNFPA country programme;

(o) Samoa: (i) to assist in preparing a report on the 1991 Census of Housing and Population; and (ii) to assist in conducting a seminar on the dissemination and utilization of census data;

(p) Thailand, on improving the contents of the summary results of the report of the Industrial Survey and examination of the concepts used in the introductory chapter;

(q) Tonga: (i) to assess the reliability of the national accounts estimates and advise on their elaboration, revision, improvement and analysis; and (ii) to review project documents on civil registration and a demographic survey;

(r) Vanuatu, on review and assessment, and update of civil registration, and reformulation of a project request;

(s) Viet Nam: (i) to assist in data processing, finalization of questionnaires and manuals; (ii) to assist in developing data processing systems for the Intercensal Demographic Survey and the Multiround Survey; and (iii) to review plans for the Multiround Survey.

Special Body on Least Developed and Land-locked Developing Countries

(a) Kiribati, on port operation and rural financing;

(b) Myanmar, on taking advantage of available TCDC opportunities in the region;

(c) Nepal, on macroeconomic modelling;

(d) Samoa, on future ESCAP activities in the country;

(e) Tuvalu: (i) on the terms of the home ownership scheme and determination of their legality; and (ii) review and implementation of customs tariffs;

(f) Vanuatu: (i) on a national provident fund housing scheme; (ii) on export promotion and import substitution policy; and (iii) statistical advisory services.

Chapter III

FIFTIETH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION

A. Attendance and organization of work

115. The fiftieth session of the Commission was held in New Delhi from 5 to 13 April 1994.

116. The session was attended by representatives of the following members and associate members: Afghanistan, Australia, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, China, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Fiji, France, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Japan, Kazakhstan, Kiribati, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Marshall Islands, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Samoa, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Thailand, Tonga, Tuvalu, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Viet Nam, Hong Kong, Macau and New Caledonia.

117. In pursuance of rule 3 of the Commission's rules of procedure, representatives of Germany and Italy attended. Representatives of the Holy See also attended under Economic and Social Council decision 244 (LXIII).

118. The session was also attended by officials of the United Nations Secretariat representing the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia and the Regional Commissions New York Office.

119. Representatives of the following United Nations bodies attended: United Nations Children's Fund, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, United Nations Drug Control Programme, United Nations Development Programme, United Nations Development Fund for Women, United Nations Population Fund, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and World Food Programme.

120. Representatives of the following specialized agencies were present in a consultative capacity: International Labour Organization, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, International Civil Aviation Organization, World Health Organization, World Bank, International Monetary Fund, Universal Postal Union, International Telecommunication Union, World Meteorological Organization, International Maritime Organization and United Nations Industrial Development Organization.

121. The following intergovernmental organizations attended as observers: Asian Clearing Union, Asian Development Bank, Asian and Pacific Coconut Community, Asian and Pacific Development Centre, Asian Productivity Organization, Asian-Pacific Postal Union, Asia-Pacific Telecommunity, Commission of the European Communities, Colombo Plan Bureau, Economic Cooperation Organization, International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development, International Jute Organization, Interim Committee for Coordination of Investigations of the Lower Mekong Basin, International Pepper Community, Pacific Economic Cooperation Council, South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation, South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme and South Pacific Commission.

122. Observers were present from the following non-governmental organizations in category I: International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, International Federation of Business and Professional Women, International Organization for Standardization, International Organization of Consumers Unions, International Social Security Association, International Youth and Student Movement for the United Nations, Muslim World League, World Confederation of Labour, World Federation of Democratic Youth, World Federation of Trade Unions, World Federation of United Nations Associations, World Muslim Congress and World Veterans Federation; and from the following organizations in category II: Baha'i International Community, International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage, International Federation on Ageing, Pan-Pacific and South-East Asia Women's Association, and World Assembly of Small and Medium Enterprises.

123. Representatives of All India Women's Conference, Asian Forum of Environmental Journalists, Asian Institute for Rural Development, Association of Development Financing Institutions in Asia and the Pacific, International Union of Railways, Regional Network of Local Authorities for the Management of Human Settlements and South Asian Network of Organizations of People with Disabilities also attended.

124. The list of participants is given in document ESCAP/(L)/INF.1/Rev. 2.

125. As requested, the Acting Chairperson conveyed a brief message from the Chairperson of the forty-ninth session of the Commission, HE Squadron Leader Prasong Soonsiri, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Thailand, who, at the last moment, had to revise his

plans and could not attend the fiftieth session in person. In his message, he conveyed his deep appreciation to all members of the Bureau as well as to the Executive Secretary and his staff for their kind cooperation. He further noted that the forty-ninth session of the Commission had achieved far-reaching results, which was attributable to the active participation, support and cooperation of all the delegations. He highlighted some important outcomes of the session, which had included the adoption of a programme of action for regional economic cooperation in trade and investment and providing the direction for the Second Asian and Pacific Ministerial Conference on Women in Development, the Ministerial Conference on Space Applications for Development in Asia and the Pacific, and the Asian and Pacific Ministerial Conference in Preparation for the World Summit for Social Development. He expressed satisfaction at the further progress achieved in the work of the Commission in those regards. He also commented that the agenda for the fiftieth session of the Commission was fully in keeping with the role of ESCAP in the promotion of economic and social development in the Asian and Pacific region and expressed the conviction that the traditional spirit of mutual understanding, friendship and cooperation would contribute significantly to the success of the session.

126. In accordance with rule 13 of the rules of procedure, the Commission at its 751st meeting elected HE Mr Pranab Mukherjee (India) Chairperson.

127. Following the past practice of the Commission and after informal consultations, the Chairperson proposed and the Commission decided to elect the following heads of delegation Vice-Chairpersons: HE Mr Mojibor Rahman (Bangladesh), HE Mr Dawa Tsering (Bhutan), HE Dato Ahmad Wally Skinner (Brunei Darussalam), HE Mr Liu Huaqiu (China), HE Mr Kamaluddin Ahmed (India), HE Mr Wisber Loeis (Indonesia), HE Mr Mohammad Tabibian (Islamic Republic of Iran), HE Mr Shozo Azuma (Japan), HE Mr Kanymdjomart Tokaev (Kazakhstan), HE Mr Alikbek Djekshenkulov (Kyrgyzstan), HE Mr Soubanh Srithirath (Lao People's Democratic Republic), HE Dato Syed Hamid bin Syed Jaafar Albar (Malaysia), HE Mr Ch. Ulaan (Mongolia), Hon. Dr Ram Sharan Mahat (Nepal), HE Mr V.A. Jafarey (Pakistan), Hon. Sir Julius Chan KB MP (Papua New Guinea), Hon. Lina B. Laigo (Philippines), HE Mr Hong Soon-Young (Republic of Korea), HE Mr A.N. Panov (Russian Federation), Hon. Francos Joseph Saemala MP (Solomon Islands), HE Mr Mardonov Tojiddin (Tajikistan), Hon. James Cecil Cocker (Tonga), Hon. Faimalaga Luka (Tuvalu) and HE Mr Vu Khoan (Viet Nam).

128. Mr Bozorgmehr Ziaran (Islamic Republic of Iran) was elected Rapporteur of the plenary session.

129. The Chairperson proposed and the Commission decided to appoint two committees of the whole to consider agenda items 6-11. Committee of the Whole I elected Professor Dr Yuamil C. Agoes Achir (Indonesia) Chairperson and Dr Rabindra Kumar Shakya (Nepal) and Mr Chua Pheng Siong (Brunei Darussalam) Vice-Chairpersons. Mr Mohamed Roze Rodzi bin Abdul Rahman (Malaysia) was elected Rapporteur. Committee of the Whole II elected Hon. Serge Vohor (Vanuatu) Chairperson and Mr Chitral Ranjit Kuruppu (Sri Lanka), HE Mr T. Chimiddorje (Mongolia) and Mr Jan A.M. Giesen (Netherlands) Vice-Chairpersons. Mr Kila A. Karo (Papua New Guinea) was elected Rapporteur.

130. The Commission also decided to constitute an informal working group on draft resolutions under the chairmanship of Hon. Rosalinda B. Tirona (Philippines) to consider draft resolutions presented during the session. Mr Shi Jicheng (China), HE Mr Ranjit Gupta (India), HE Mr I. Gede Awet Sara (Indonesia), HE Mr Sundar Nath Bhattarai (Nepal) were elected Vice-Chairpersons of the informal working group.

131. The Chairperson announced at the Commission's 753rd meeting that, in accordance with rule 12 of the rules of procedure, he and the Vice-Chairpersons, constituting the Credentials Committee, had examined the credentials of all the representatives and had found them to be in order.

B. Agenda

132. At its 751st meeting, the Commission adopted the following agenda:

1. Opening of the session.
2. Election of officers.
3. Adoption of the agenda (E/ESCAP/L.124/Rev.3, E/ESCAP/L.125 and Corr.1).
4. Admission of new members (E/ESCAP/974/Rev.1).
5. Policy debate:
   (a) Recent economic and social developments in the ESCAP region and their impact (ST/ESCAP/1363, E/ESCAP/928 and Add.1, E/ESCAP/929);
   (b) Infrastructure development as key to economic growth and regional economic cooperation (ST/ESCAP/1364, E/ESCAP/930).
6. Regional economic cooperation:
   (a) Report of the Committee for Regional Economic Cooperation, third session (E/ESCAP/931 and Corr.1);

(b) Implementation of the Action Programme for Regional Economic Cooperation in Trade and Investment (E/ESCAP/932 and Corr.1);

(c) Economic and technical cooperation among developing countries (E/ESCAP/933);

(d) Report on the Commission's activities for disadvantaged economies in transition (E/ESCAP/934 and Corr.1);

(e) Implementation of paragraph 4 of Commission resolution 49/3 on the Tehran Declaration on Strengthening Regional Cooperation for Technology-led Industrialization in Asia and the Pacific (E/ESCAP/935).

7. Environment and sustainable development:

(a) Report of the Committee on Environment and Sustainable Development, first session, and its follow-up (E/ESCAP/936, E/ESCAP/972);

(b) Implementation of Agenda 21 in Asia and the Pacific (E/ESCAP/937);

(c) Preparations for the Ministerial Conference on Space Applications for Development in Asia and the Pacific (E/ESCAP/938 and Corr.1).

8. Poverty alleviation through economic growth and social development:

(a) Report of the Committee on Poverty Alleviation through Economic Growth and Social Development, first session, and its follow-up (E/ESCAP/939);

(b) Report on the Ministerial Conference on Urbanization in Asia and the Pacific, and its follow-up (E/ESCAP/940, E/ESCAP/941 and Corr.1, E/ESCAP/942 and Add.1);

(c) Regional preparations for the World Summit for Social Development (E/ESCAP/943 and Corr.1 and 2);

(d) Regional preparations for the Fourth World Conference on Women: Action for Equality, Development and Peace (E/ESCAP/944);

(e) Progress in the implementation of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 1993-2002 (E/ESCAP/945 and Corr.1);

(f) Review and refinement of the Jakarta Plan of Action on Human Resources Development in the ESCAP Region (E/ESCAP/946);

(g) Follow-up of the Bali Declaration on Population and Sustainable Development and implementation strategies: regional preparations for the International Conference on Population and Development (E/ESCAP/947).

9. Transport and communications: report of the Committee on Transport and Communications, first session (E/ESCAP/948 and Corr.1, E/ESCAP/949).

10. Least developed, land-locked and island developing countries:

(a) Report of the Special Body on Pacific Island Developing Countries, second session (E/ESCAP/950);

(b) Implementation of Commission resolution 49/8 on strengthening assistance to least developed countries (E/ESCAP/951 and Corr.1).

11. ESCAP regional institutions and selected regional projects:

(a) Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology (E/ESCAP/952);

(b) Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (E/ESCAP/953 and Add.1);

(c) Regional Coordination Centre for Research and Development of Coarse Grains, Pulses, Roots and Tuber Crops in the Humid Tropics of Asia and the Pacific (E/ESCAP/954 and Corr.1);

(d) Regional Network for Agricultural Machinery (E/ESCAP/955).

12. Restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic and social fields: implementation of Commission resolution 48/2 on restructuring the conference structure of the Commission (E/ESCAP/956).

13. Inter-organizational cooperation:

(a) Cooperation between ESCAP and other organizations in the promotion of economic and social development in the region (E/ESCAP/957);

(b) Strengthening the role of ESCAP in the coordination of regional operational activities: implementation of Commission resolution 49/10 (E/ESCAP/958).

14. Reports of regional intergovernmental bodies (E/ESCAP/959, E/ESCAP/960/Rev.1, E/ESCAP/961, E/ESCAP/962).

15. Programme planning:

(a) Programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995, as adopted by the General Assembly, and proposed programme changes (E/ESCAP/963 and Corr.1-3, E/ESCAP/964 and Corr.1, E/ESCAP/965);

(b) Second revision of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 (E/ESCAP/966, E/ESCAP/967);

(c) Issues relevant to and resources for the technical cooperation activities of ESCAP (E/ESCAP/968).

16. Announcement of intended contributions (E/ESCAP/969 and Corr.1, E/ESCAP/973, E/ESCAP/975).

17. Activities of the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission (E/ESCAP/970 and Add.1).

18. Date, venue and any other subject pertaining to the fifty-first session of the Commission (E/ESCAP/971).

19. Other matters.

20. Adoption of the report of the Commission.

C. Account of proceedings

133. The session was declared open by the Acting Chairperson of the forty-ninth session, Hon. Serge Vohor, Minister for Economic Affairs and Tourism of Vanuatu. HE Mr P.V. Narasimha Rao, Prime Minister of India, delivered the inaugural address. The Executive Secretary read out a message from the Secretary-General of the United Nations and delivered an address.

Inaugural address by the Prime Minister of India

134. The Prime Minister of India welcomed those attending the fiftieth session of the Commission, and stated that India was pleased to be hosting the session.

135. In the Asian and Pacific region, ESCAP had been the torch-bearer and catalyst for economic and social development, and had provided added impetus to the process of growth in the region. India had been an active participant in the activities of ESCAP since its inception and attached great significance to its achievements. The deliberations during the session would undoubtedly contribute to promoting the spirit of regional cooperation for the overall development of the region. He expressed the hope that the current session would provide the vision for a peaceful future for the region and the world at large.

136. The fiftieth session was taking place at a critical juncture in contemporary history. The world economic and political scene had witnessed great changes in recent times, including the disappearance of the superpower rivalry and the cold war era. Those changes had created great expectations of a peaceful future and had fostered an environment conducive to the enhancement of regional cooperation in the social and economic fields. The world was witnessing a general movement of the restructuring of economies away from command and control systems to market-based systems. The winds of change had affected Asia as well. The unifying forces of development in the region should serve to cement mutual relations and create a climate of confidence and faith. Development was the key issue, the common denominator and unifying element for any successful initiative for peace.

137. The world economic scenario presented a varied picture. While great progress had been made in certain parts of the world, such as the developed countries, the recession was creating certain problems. There were other parts which were witnessing substantial and consistently high rates of growth. That established the complementarity which needed to be exploited to secure overall global welfare. The fast-growing economies provided the opportunities that the economies in recession required to achieve revival. It was important that that be understood by developed and developing countries alike. The need of the times was for cooperation, not confrontation. The countries of the North needed to appreciate the desire of developing countries to catch up with the rest of the world. It was counter-productive to create problems on narrow, short-term considerations. It was in that perspective that the free flow of resources, capital, technology and market access had become more relevant than ever to give a strong impetus to global economic growth.

138. The successful conclusion of the Uruguay Round should also go a long way in allaying the perception that the world trading system was being fragmented by closed economic regional groups and inward-looking trade blocs. It would also provide an impetus to the reform process being undertaken in several countries through a realization of the possibilities and opportunities provided by globalization. It was hoped that all would cooperate so that the benefits of the Round were truly global. It would be an opportunity lost to the whole world if, instead of concentrating efforts to globalize the benefits flowing from the Round, fresh impediments were introduced in the form of unjustified controversies. While developed and developing countries alike would need to share action to deal with genuine social and environmental concerns, those concerns should not be reflected in the trade agenda with the intention of nullifying the comparative advantage of developing countries.

139. The fiftieth session of the Commission was an opportune time for assessing and evaluating the

challenge before the Asian and Pacific region and ESCAP, and for determining appropriate responses to those challenges. Reasons of history, geography and culture had lent to the region a distinct Asian and Pacific ethos which joined together the mosaic of cultures and ethnic groups constituting the region. Its economies had achieved some of the highest growth rates in the world and had become the subject of analyses for economic and political planners all over the world. The trade and flow of investment within the region had grown phenomenally, providing the region with the basis for forging a distinct Asian and Pacific identity and unity. The development of such an identity could be realized if the subregional cooperation groupings could serve as building blocks towards developing and strengthening inter-subregional and regional cooperation. It was necessary to address economic and social issues in a wider framework than national and subregional perspectives. The economic and social development programmes needed in the region were well known and had already been institutionalized under ESCAP. There was need to strengthen those programmes under the single umbrella of ESCAP rather than duplicating and dividing them. ESCAP should play the role of coordinator and catalyst for the promotion of regionwide trade and economic cooperation and for strengthening economic ties between the subregional groupings. ESCAP had a special role to play in encouraging the active participation of both regional and non-regional members. Programmes for cooperation could therefore be developed and refined with great success.

140. While many opportunities had opened for development in the new economic age that was emerging, there were many challenges ahead. Fifty-eight per cent of the world's population lived in the ESCAP region. A large number of countries continued to battle against poverty, deprivation and unemployment. It was necessary to find solutions to those problems, which would inevitably involve reforms, although the reforms must have a human face. The pace, range and scope of restructuring programmes should not burden those sections of society least able to bear them. That represented a major challenge so that social equity and traditional values which wove and bound together the social fabric of nations was safeguarded. It was necessary to accelerate economic growth in order to promote employment. Massive upgrading of the quality of education, health care, housing, transport and other social and physical infrastructure was also called for. Although the implementation of policies and programmes to alleviate poverty was primarily the responsibility of member countries, the support of United Nations bodies and specialized intergovernmental organizations in that task was essential. The participation of communities and community-based non-governmental organizations was also crucial. In that regard, India had set up the Council for Advancement of People's Action and Rural Technology (CAPART) to promote voluntary action. Members of the Commission needed to share their common experience in those areas. Poverty alleviation must be addressed on a priority basis if the goal of sustainable development was to be achieved. The ESCAP project for networking of poverty alleviation programmes in seven South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) districts was an excellent example of how such issues could be addressed together.

141. The problem of environmental degradation was yet another issue that would assume huge proportions in the coming century if serious efforts were not made to check it. The problem had already arisen owing to excessive exploitation of nature and rapid growth of population. The apparent dichotomy between development and environmental protection had been resolved and it was accepted that the two were inseparable. Sustainable development should become part and parcel of the development policy of each country. The Rio Declaration on Environment and Development and Agenda 21 were comprehensive, with a broad charter of principles which not only addressed the current environment and development problems but also aimed at preparing the world for the challenges of the next century. All ESCAP members should endeavour to adopt those principles. Legitimate concern for environmental preservation should not, however, be made an alibi for the raising of protectionist trade barriers, since only augmentation of trade and technology flows would provide the necessary resources for a transition to more environmentally friendly products and processes.

142. Development of infrastructure was the key to addressing the main issues of generating economic growth and meeting the basic needs of society. The choice of the theme topic of the current session of the Commission was thus appropriate and timely. The region's economic success of the past few years and the recent economic restructuring in the region had fuelled the urgency for improvement in its infrastructure. Huge investments were, however, required in that area. Given resource constraints, fulfilment of such investment levels would need assistance from multilateral financial institutions and external sources. There was vast scope for cooperation among the countries of the region in the development of infrastructure in areas such as energy, communications and transport. Wider sharing of technology, expertise and financial resources was essential. The benefits would be regional and cut across national frontiers and boundaries.

143. It was heartening that the Committee for Regional Economic Cooperation had been addressing issues of intraregional trade and investment-related technology and technological capability development. There was need to strengthen the level and pattern of technology, investment and trade flows between

countries. Adequate measures needed to be taken to transfer technologies from the advanced regions to the less advanced countries. Suitable assistance was also required by the less developed countries to promote investment and facilitate its absorption. Promotion of small and medium industries in those economies could yield greater benefits. Investment in the requisite technology and technical information was a priority in order to make those industries vehicles of export-led growth.

144. The Prime Minister noted that the benefits of human capital formation and technology development should also be shared among the countries of the ESCAP region. Over the years ESCAP had built up a network of institutions and agencies. The Government of India had also been actively involved in contributing to those agencies, and had recently provided headquarters to the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology (APCTT) in Delhi. Those institutions played a key role in extending scientific and technological inputs to the less developed countries. Opportunities were vast, not just among ESCAP institutions but among the numerous centres of excellence that had been nurtured and developed in different parts of the region. The results of their research and scholarship should be disseminated widely.

145. It was in the shared interest of all members to increase the pace of socio-economic development throughout the ESCAP region. It was the great dynamism and inherent vitality of the region that provided the confidence and will for members to re-dedicate themselves to intensifying efforts for regional and inter-subregional cooperation with a view to realizing that potential comprehensively. He appealed to all participating countries, with particular reference to members from the Asian and Pacific region, to accord overriding priority and unconditional support to the imperatives of economic cooperation, including trade, investment, technology transfer and tourism, over other aspects of mutual relations, so that the socio-economic infrastructure necessary for sustaining the growth momentum in the region and for improving the quality of life of all its people could be addressed effectively.

146. He expressed the hope that the fiftieth session of ESCAP would provide the vision to guide the region into the twenty-first century.

Message from the Secretary-General of the United Nations

147. In his message, the Secretary-General noted that the hosting by India of the foremost regional intergovernmental forum provided a further indication of its commitment to the promotion of regional cooperation for economic and social progress. The fiftieth session was taking place at a time when India was making determined efforts to intensify and sustain the growing momentum in its own development.

148. While the Asian and Pacific region had in recent years demonstrated remarkable vitality and dynamism, a number of countries had been unable to achieve any significant economic growth. The continuing stagnation among the region's least developed, and island developing economies, their inadequate development and the pangs of transition being experienced by several other countries, including the Central Asian States, served as a grim reminder of the uneven development scenario of the region. Those countries would need special support and assistance if they were to make faster progress. Their enhanced prospects for economic and social development also raised the potential and possibility for peace.

149. Much of the Asian and Pacific region had been experiencing sustained levels of high growth for a number of years. The region had emerged as a pole of growth for the global economy as a whole. The spreading momentum offered hope to the millions of Asians who lived in poverty. It was also encouraging to note that many developing countries in the region were giving special attention to the modernization and upgrading of their physical infrastructure with a view to accelerating economic growth and enhancing the prospects for regional economic cooperation. Those priorities were clearly reflected in ESCAP activities as well as in the new thematic priorities adopted by the Commission.

150. He expressed confidence that the work of the current session of the Commission would reflect the traditional vitality and sense of direction that had become its distinguishing features, and extended his best wishes to the Commission for a most productive and rewarding session.

Statement by the Executive Secretary of ESCAP

151. The Executive Secretary welcomed all the delegations and expressed gratitude to the Prime Minister of India for inaugurating the session, which had served as a reaffirmation of India's commitment to the realization of the goals and objectives for economic and social progress and development enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and, in particular, to the objectives of the Commission. The hosting of the session coincided with the dynamism that was increasingly becoming a hallmark of the significant strides being made by India as it charted a challenging course of development for itself. He thanked the Government of India and all the officials concerned who had worked tirelessly on the many preparations necessary for holding the session.

152. In the current vastly improved international climate, members and associate members of the Commission had a collective responsibility to meet the huge economic and social challenges facing the region.

The scope for cooperation in such areas as trade, investment, transfer of technology and infrastructure development had never been greater. The secretariat looked forward to a positive outcome of the Commission's deliberations on those and other important issues on its agenda.

Admission of new members

153. The Commission had before it document E/ESCAP/974/Rev.1. It recommended the inclusion of Armenia as a member of the Commission within its geographical scope, with an appropriate recommendation to be submitted to the Economic and Social Council that the Commission's terms of reference be amended.

154. It approved a draft resolution for submission to the Economic and Social Council relating to the amendment of paragraphs 2 and 3 of its terms of reference in respect of the admission of Armenia as a member of the Commission.

155. One delegation expressed reservation about the membership of Armenia in ESCAP since it considered that the policies being pursued by the latter had not been conducive to peace and stability as well as promotion of sustainable socio-economic development and cooperation in the region.

Policy debate

Policy statement by the Executive Secretary

156. While reviewing developments in the ESCAP region, the Executive Secretary touched upon a number of important issues confronting the region and their ramifications for national policy and regional cooperation. He noted the steady and strong economic growth recorded by many economies, especially in the eastern and south-eastern parts of the region, in the early 1990s, despite the sluggish performance of the developed market economies, which remained important trading partners for the region. Though some of the region's economies, especially the Central Asian republics, continued to experience difficulties and output decline, there was a trend towards more widespread improved growth and the predominant mood in the region was one of optimism.

157. The Executive Secretary stressed the actual implementation by all signatories of the obligations envisaged under the recently concluded Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations as a means of laying the foundation for a free and transparent multilateral trading system. He pointed out the need for vigilance against any new forms of barriers that could undermine the agreements reached under the Round.

158. In his view, the impressive growth performance of the ESCAP region was largely due to its dynamism in international trade, greatly bolstered by the growing complementarities among the economies of the region, representing a vast market of nearly 3 billion people. It was natural, therefore, that the Commission had in recent years paid considerable attention to strengthening regional cooperation in trade and investment. The Executive Secretary drew attention to implementation of the Action Programme for Regional Economic Cooperation in Trade and Investment endorsed by the Commission at its forty-ninth session, as well as the revised Action Programme for Regional Economic Cooperation in Investment-related Technology Transfer.

159. The Executive Secretary drew attention to the strain on the infrastructural facilities in the region as the result of the continuing upsurge in the region's economies and the need for their rehabilitation and expansion to facilitate the growth and development of the individual economies, intraregional trade and investment, and other forms of regional cooperation. He highlighted the need for expansion in specific fields of infrastructure such as transport, communications and energy, and the resources required to finance the expansion. He pointed out the need for mobilizing the necessary internal and external resources and stressed the importance of improving the operational efficiency of existing facilities in several areas, as well as of enlisting the support of the private sector through innovative approaches.

160. The phenomenon of rapid urbanization, with its associated problems, was among the major challenges facing the region in securing the well-being of the population through improvement in the quality of life. The Executive Secretary brought to the Commission's attention the recommendations of the Ministerial Conference on Urbanization in Asia and the Pacific, held in 1993, highlighting five imperatives on policy formulation: substantial governmental devolution; empowerment of the poor; greater openness and mutual trust between strengthened local governments and newly empowered communities; proper pricing for all urban services; and adoption of more realistic and enforceable urban planning and environmental standards.

161. While environmental standards in urban areas represented a significant environmental problem and required heightened attention, the vast rural areas of the region also faced a number of environmental problems. Three fifths of the world's population lived in the ESCAP region, on less than a quarter of the Earth's surface. It was necessary, therefore, to redouble efforts to integrate environmental considerations into the very process of development. The Commission's awareness of that was reflected in the adoption of specific measures towards the implementation of Agenda 21, and he looked forward to the further guidance of the Commission for the ministerial-level conference on environment and development to be held in 1995.

162. The Executive Secretary pointed out that the overwhelming majority of the world's poor lived in the ESCAP region. Poverty aggravated urban and

environmental problems, deprived large sections of the population of the means to satisfy their basic needs and tarnished the image of development that the region had achieved. He highlighted the need to redress deprivation in all its forms to enhance social stability and, in that context, drew the Commission's attention to the forthcoming Asian and Pacific Ministerial Conference in Preparation for the World Summit for Social Development and the Second Asian and Pacific Ministerial Conference on Women in Development, which would address many of the aspects of the region's social development that required urgent attention.

163. Much could be accomplished in the region to improve the quality of human resources by drawing upon the experience already acquired. Such improvement could also redress many forms of inequality, whether it affected women or any other deprived segments of society. Poverty alleviation and human resources development were closely linked and, keeping that in view, the Commission might wish to revise the Jakarta Plan of Action on Human Resources Development in the ESCAP Region, which it had adopted in its resolution 274 (XLIV) of 20 April 1988. The Executive Secretary also informed the Commission of the secretariat's initiative in instituting a special programme for Asian and Pacific fellowships for scholars in the region through which the regional dimensions of various development issues could be researched for policy guidance.

164. The development of human resources and the quality of life were inextricably linked with population. The Executive Secretary noted the Commission's long tradition of playing a pioneering role in that regard; several decennial regional conferences had been held under its auspices. The latest, the Fourth Asian and Pacific Population Conference, held in Bali, Indonesia, in August 1992, had adopted the Bali Declaration on Population and Sustainable Development as a significant guideline for population policies in the region.

165. Despite the enormity of the social problems facing the ESCAP region, great progress had been achieved in the areas of poverty alleviation and in health and education by reducing mortality rates, enhancing life expectancy and increasing literacy rates. There was no room for complacency, however. There were still countries in the region with very low levels of per capita income, high rates of infant and child mortality, low life expectancy and high rates of illiteracy. Within countries there were large disparities between genders, geographical areas and classes in access to income, employment, health, education and other social services. To redress those problems would require additional resources, a part of which could come from the reduction of wasteful military expenditure.

166. The Executive Secretary highlighted the importance of exploring the new frontiers of technology. He drew attention to the Ministerial Conference on Space Applications for Development in Asia and the Pacific, to be held in Beijing in September 1994, which could provide a framework for the application of earth space information to natural resources management, environmental monitoring and development planning.

167. Despite the many challenges that remained for sustained development, the Executive Secretary was optimistic about the prospects in the light of peace prevailing in the region and the pervasive spirit of regional cooperation, in the strengthening of which the Commission played a vital role.

Recent economic and social developments in the ESCAP region and their impact

168. The Commission had before it the *Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 1993* (ST/ESCAP/1363), a summary of the *Survey* (E/ESCAP/928 and Add.1) and a note by the secretariat on progress in the implementation of the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade (E/ESCAP/929). It commended the secretariat on the preparation of those documents, and expressed appreciation particularly of the high quality of the *Survey*.

169. The Commission noted the continued economic dynamism of the ESCAP region, which was reflected in the high average rate of economic growth recorded in 1993 when economic growth elsewhere in the world had remained low. It viewed the prospects for the continuing growth of the region's economies as bright, in the light of a more vigorous implementation of policy reforms instituted by most of the countries of the region, rising domestic demand, the increasing trend towards intraregional trade, investment and technology flows, the improved outlook for the recovery of the rest of the world economy, and a better world trading environment. The Commission adopted resolution 50/1, the Delhi Declaration on Strengthening Regional Economic Cooperation in Asia and the Pacific towards the Twenty-first Century.

170. The Commission noted with satisfaction that the Asian and Pacific region had emerged as an engine of growth for the international economy; it viewed with concern the fact that many economies of the region did not share the region's overall dynamism and strong growth performance. Although there were noticeable indications of the spread of the growth momentum to a larger number of economies, most of the least developed, land-locked, and island developing economies and the disadvantaged economies in transition were growing slowly or not at all. Those economies, suffering from low productivity and slow growth, had yet to establish a firm foundation for future growth and deserved greater assistance from the international community in their efforts to accelerate growth. Economic and technical cooperation among developing countries could play a significant role in such efforts.

171. The Commission noted several positive elements in the international environment that were favourable for the continued growth and development of the world economy and the economies of the region. Those included the prospect of peace prevailing in the post-cold war era through the elimination of the remaining tensions, the reduction of wasteful military expenditure, strengthened international cooperation in an atmosphere of trust and confidence, and a freer world trading system, towards the establishment of which the successful conclusion of the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations was a major step forward.

172. The Commission held the view that the conclusion of the Uruguay Round was a significant achievement for the international community and expressed the hope that all parties to the agreement would implement the provisions fully and in earnest without raising any obstacle to such implementation. Several delegations were of the view that social policy issues should not be linked with the trade agenda; some others believed that debate in the proposed world trade organization, with broad multilateral participation, would assure that those issues did not become a basis for protectionism. In that context, the Commission noted the legitimate concerns for the welfare of workers and the protection of the environment, but was of the opinion that those issues should not be misused as non-tariff barriers to neutralize the comparative advantage of the developing countries based on their relative resource endowments.

173. The Commission emphasized the importance of continuing economic growth in the ESCAP region, of spreading growth to economies still lagging, and of diffusing widely the benefits of growth to those segments of the population that were still poor, disadvantaged and deprived. It noted the many growth-stimulating reform measures being implemented by countries in the region, including macroeconomic stabilization, encouraging and expanding the role of the private sector in the economy, streamlining fiscal and financial systems, rationalizing controls and regulations to establish more competitive market environments, liberalizing trade and exchange rate regimes, greater openness towards foreign investment and technologies, and wide-ranging administrative and institutional reforms. Governments had an important role to play in economic governance and management and in the provision of social and economic infrastructure.

174. The Commission urged the international community to provide appropriate and adequate technological and financial support to economies of the region to enable them to implement successfully reforms for sustained and accelerated growth and development and for addressing the many serious social problems that persisted. Concern was expressed about the inadequacy of official financial support for the developing countries, as evidenced by the non-fulfilment by most donor countries of the internationally accepted targets of official development assistance (ODA) and the recent tendency for such assistance to stagnate or decline in real terms. The changing composition of external financial inflows, involving a greater proportion of private flows, introduced uncertainty about sustainability, favoured a limited number of countries and put the least developed and other poor economies at a disadvantage because of their lower level of creditworthiness and their lack of access to private financial markets, and because they were less attractive to foreign private investors.

175. The Commission focused on the many dimensions of the social development problems that persisted in the region. Concern was expressed about the prevalence of poverty affecting vast segments of the population in many countries, particularly the least developed countries. The Commission noted the many national, subregional and regional policies, strategies and programmes for the alleviation of poverty and reiterated its catalytic role in support of that objective. It also noted the catalytic role of the Governments and the importance of the support and cooperation of the private sector, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and other voluntary agencies in that area. The Asian and Pacific Ministerial Conference in Preparation for the World Summit for Social Development, to be held in Manila in October 1994, and the Second Asian and Pacific Ministerial Conference on Women in Development, to be held in Jakarta in June 1994, which would also serve as a preparatory meeting for the Fourth World Conference on Women: Action for Equality, Development and Peace, would make a valuable contribution to that role.

176. The Commission recognized the link between poverty, population, health, education and the environment and stressed that the development of human resources could improve both economic productivity and well-being. It noted the progress that had been achieved in reducing population growth, improving health standards and enhancing educational attainments and expressed concern about the persistent imbalances between countries and between genders, social classes and geographical areas within countries. A multidimensional approach encompassing health, nutrition, education, job creation and affordable housing was required to address various social problems. The Commission urged its members and associate members to make use of the experience, expertise, facilities and opportunities available to overcome deficiencies where they remained, to redress imbalances and to arrest the growing incidence of new problems such as drug abuse and acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS). The Commission emphasized the importance of fuller use of the various regional institutions and national centres of excellence in promoting human resources development and technology transfer.

177. The deterioration of the environment globally and in the region had to be arrested. There was urgent

need for paying greater attention to the problem of atmospheric pollution; the depletion or deterioration of many pristine nature reserves of forests, flora and fauna; and the depletion of the ozone layer that provided the protective shield from the ultraviolet rays of the sun needed for the survival of the habitat of the Earth. There was also need for proper management of water resources. The environmental problem must be tackled globally by fuller implementation of Agenda 21, and the Commission urged both the developed and developing countries to contribute appropriately to that common endeavour. The importance of the ministerial-level conference on environment and development to be held in 1995 was mentioned in that context. The Commission noted the many initiatives taken by countries in the region to preserve and protect the environment; it recognized the difficulties that those countries faced in harmonizing economic development with the conservation of natural resources and emphasized the need for a greater flow of technological and financial resources to developing countries to enable them to address the problems encountered effectively. It noted with appreciation the initiatives taken by some developed countries and international organizations in offering financial assistance and environmentally sound technologies.

178. The Commission urged its members and associate members to strengthen cooperation among themselves to realize their goals of economic and social development and to reduce intercountry gaps by making fuller use of complementarities in trade, investment, technology and resource endowments. Multiple structures and mechanisms could be used to promote regional cooperation. The Commission had already taken the lead in providing renewed impetus to regionwide economic cooperation by adopting "Expansion of investment and intraregional trade as a vehicle for enhancing regional economic cooperation and development" and "Infrastructure development as key to economic growth and regional economic cooperation" as theme topics for its forty-ninth and fiftieth sessions, respectively, and through the establishment of the Committee for Regional Economic Cooperation and its Steering Group, which had already adopted two action programmes to promote cooperation in specific fields. The various subregional institutions and other arrangements, such as growth triangles, could also be valuable for enhancing regionwide cooperation.

179. The Commission drew attention to the recent changes in its own structures which, it was hoped, would make it a more vigorous and dynamic catalytic agent for change and the promotion of economic and social development in the ESCAP region. The restructuring of its legislative bodies and the secretariat had already made a significant contribution to the emergence of ESCAP as a more constructive and adaptive source of technical assistance and forum for the exchange of views and experience with regard to national policy-making.

180. The Commission took note with appreciation of the decision of the Government of China to apply for full membership in the Bangkok Agreement.

Infrastructure development as key to economic growth and regional economic cooperation

181. The Commission had before it document E/ESCAP/930, as well as the publication on the theme topic of its fiftieth session, *Infrastructure Development as Key to Economic Growth and Regional Economic Cooperation* (ST/ESCAP/1364). In its deliberations, the Commission reiterated that infrastructure was an important prerequisite to sustained economic growth and development.

182. The Commission commended the secretariat on the useful document and publication on infrastructure development prepared for the session. The secretariat had correctly highlighted not only the financial shortfall in the amount required for infrastructure in the region, conservatively estimated at US$ 918 billion until the year 2000, but also the equally important infrastructure management and maintenance shortfall, which could be even more serious.

183. There was unanimous agreement that infrastructure was an important prerequisite to economic growth at all stages of development. To stimulate the growth of any economy, proper infrastructure was a must and, as an economy progressed, there was continuous need for infrastructure to be expanded in order to support economic and social development.

184. Several countries in the region were facing problems, including traffic congestion in major cities, limited road access to provincial capitals at certain times of the year, sluggish operations at major ports, inadequate telecommunications services, long waiting lists for telephone installation, and shortages of drinking and industrial water. Those deficiencies in physical infrastructure placed direct constraints on a country's production and export capability, which in turn affected its growth and the economic welfare of its citizens.

185. Recognizing the impact of those bottlenecks, many delegations noted that improved management of existing infrastructure and the expansion of physical infrastructure were a central component of the strategy of Governments for economic growth and development.

186. The Commission recognized that past policies had been based upon building new infrastructure, while existing infrastructure was not properly used or maintained. Concern about ecological sustainability and the limited financial resources of members and associate members further highlighted the need for continuing efforts to increase the efficiency of existing infrastructure, reduce wastage, and implement orderly and regular maintenance activities, and pay attention to changing attitudes of producers and consumers in that respect.

187. In the past, the central authorities in most Governments had assumed responsibility for infrastructure development. The financing requirement for such development had, however, exceeded prudent budgetary levels in many countries and consequently alternative sources of financing needed to be sought. Increased deregulation and liberalization associated with the spread of the market economy had provided the opportunity for an enhanced role for the involvement of both the domestic and the foreign private sectors in the promotion of infrastructure development. A number of delegations stated that privatization and commercialization had increased the efficiency of infrastructure operation considerably. ESCAP needed to play a catalytic role in assisting the Governments in that respect.

188. The Commission noted that several constraints on private sector participation remained, and recommended that members and associate members of ESCAP should improve their investment climate to be able to attract the private sector in infrastructure development.

189. The importance of regional economic cooperation in infrastructure development was strongly emphasized. It was noted that the promotion of such development created economies of scale and laid the foundation for expanding intraregional trade and investment flows. Consequently, the promotion of infrastructure development and the expansion of trade and investment were highlighted as being mutually reinforcing.

190. The Commission also emphasized the important role of infrastructure development as a means of pursuing common objectives of regional economic cooperation and integration.

191. Cooperation within subregional groupings of countries and between the subregional organizations, the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN), the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO), the South Pacific Forum and SAARC, was important and was recognized by the Commission as an effective means for promoting infrastructure development.

192. The Commission expressed considerable interest in and supported the draft action plan on infrastructure development in Asia and the Pacific contained in the annex to document E/ESCAP/930. A number of delegations welcomed the practical nature of the 12 recommendations and 40 actions at the country level as well as the actions that could be taken at the regional level in support of those. The Commission adopted resolution 50/2 on the action plan on infrastructure development in Asia and the Pacific.

193. The ESCAP region had a rich diversity of countries with different physical, social and economic conditions and needs. While there were some commonalities which gave rise to the opportunity for sharing experience, there were also specific problems faced by each country. As a result, specific infrastructure plans and programmes had to be developed for each country based on its own natural conditions, needs and capacity.

194. The availability of adequate infrastructure was one of the factors that enhanced a country's attractiveness to foreign investors. Members and associate members had to offer incentives and supportive policies to attract foreign investment in general and investment in infrastructure in particular. In that respect, it was suggested that there was need for the harmonization and coordination of investment strategies and policies of various countries in the ESCAP region.

195. Many types of infrastructure development involved complex engineering systems which must be supported by trained personnel and the required technology. The Commission recognized the far-reaching significance of human resources development in the areas of training technical personnel, exchanging management expertise and disseminating knowledge and information. In that context, the delegation of Bangladesh reiterated its readiness to provide appropriate facilities and support as the host country for the establishment of a regional inland water transport centre and expressed the hope that the Commission would establish such a centre at an early date.

196. A number of delegations highlighted the importance which their policies and plans placed on rural development, especially the development of rural physical infrastructure.

197. Delegations from Pacific island countries noted that outlying islands located away from the capital had specific infrastructure problems, particularly related to transport facilities, which required solutions far different from those of countries located on large land masses.

198. A number of delegations from least developed and land-locked countries informed the Commission that the infrastructure required for achieving and sustaining a reasonable rate of growth was yet to be fully put in place; transport costs remained high, driving up the costs of imports and exports, and the funding of infrastructure development from internal resources alone was nearly impossible. As a result, the Commission felt that some special measures were required to assist the least developed and land-locked countries and urged the international community to give strong support to infrastructure development in those countries.

199. The Commission noted with interest the initiatives taken in various countries and areas to encourage private sector involvement in infrastructure development and operation. Both Australia and New Zealand had taken initiatives to improve infrastructure efficiency and to respond to competition and market signals. In Australia, major reforms had been enacted

in 1987 which gave state government public enterprises responsible for infrastructure increased autonomy in setting clear mandates, corporate objectives and dividend policies. At the same time, enhanced reporting, accountability and monitoring processes had been introduced. In Bangladesh, policy had been liberalized to allow private investment in telecommunications, air transport and power; in addition, a Securities and Exchange Commission and a Privatization Board had been established to accelerate the disinvestment process. In Hong Kong, the private sector played a major role in seaports, rail and road tunnels, electricity, gas and telecommunications. In India, the private sector was now widely encouraged to participate in the development of ports, highways, the power sector, telecommunications and aviation, and to that end substantial policy changes had been made for inviting foreign equity participation in the development of infrastructure. In Indonesia, the Government had encouraged the private sector to participate in infrastructure development, specifically in the area of highways and power supply. Malaysia had commenced privatization in 1984 through highway development and had subsequently extended it to the provision of national sewerage, light rail transit, power, telecommunications, airports and seaports. In New Zealand, there had been extensive privatization and corporatization of such sectors as air and rail transport, electricity generation and transmission, telecommunications and postal service. In Pakistan, all new thermal power generation capacity was being entrusted to the private sector, while the Government continued to be mainly responsible for hydroelectricity. In the Philippines, the Government had opened infrastructure projects to the private sector through build-operate-transfer schemes. Singapore informed the Commission that infrastructure development had been a key preoccupation of its Government, with the current high level of infrastructure provision being the result of long-range vision in land-use planning. In Sri Lanka, a secretariat had been established for infrastructure development and investment to attract private investment on a build-operate-transfer and on a build-operate-own basis; the privatization programme was gathering momentum and involved the broad-basing of ownership with around 10 per cent of the shares in State enterprises being gifted to employees and 30-39 per cent being sold to the public on the Stock Exchange.

200. The Commission also learned of the moves towards private sector participation in infrastructure development in least developed and Pacific island countries. In Nepal, the necessary legislation, including by-laws, had been introduced and a private sector hydropower project had been signed. Further projects in the fields of urban drinking water and telecommunications were also being discussed. In Vanuatu, broadcasting and television, telecommunications and public water supply had been privatized over the past three years.

201. The Commission was informed of a number of initiatives for strengthening regional cooperation by which members offered transit facilities for neighbouring countries. The representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran informed the Commission that, in recognition of its potential role as a gateway to Central Asian and Caucasian countries, its national infrastructure development plans incorporated wider regional and subregional schemes based upon the long-term prospects for greater cooperation with neighbouring countries. The delegation from Thailand stated that the Eastern Seaboard Development Programme could also serve as a gateway to neighbouring countries, including southern China.

202. The Commission was informed of the efforts to promote regional economic cooperation in the upper Mekong basin where matters related to navigation on the upper stream of the Lan Cang-Mekong River were discussed between China, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar and Thailand. It was also noted that an agreement in principle had been reached among those four countries for the construction of two roads from China to Thailand, one via the Lao People's Democratic Republic and the other via Myanmar. The Commission noted with interest that the Friendship Bridge between Thailand and the Lao People's Democratic Republic, the first over the Mekong River, funded by Australia, had been opened on 8 April 1994.

Regional economic cooperation

Report of the Committee for Regional Economic Cooperation on its third session

203. The Commission had before it the report of the Committee for Regional Economic Cooperation on its third session (E/ESCAP/931 and Corr.1). It was explained that the Committee, at its third session, had considered the reports of the third and fourth meetings of its Steering Group held, respectively, in Tokyo in October 1993 and in Kathmandu in March 1994. At those meetings, the main issues discussed were related to the economic outlook of the region, the progress in the implementation of the Action Programme for Regional Economic Cooperation in Trade and Investment, the adoption of the Action Programme for Regional Economic Cooperation in Investment-related Technology Transfer, regional cooperation and infrastructure development, and a preliminary review of issues relating to the opening up and liberalization of the disadvantaged economies in transition.

204. With regard to the Action Programme for Regional Economic Cooperation in Trade and Investment, the Commission was informed that, in its deliberations, the Committee had commended the secretariat on its activities to review and analyse intraregional trade patterns, the study of regional commodity problems, the networking of trade-related

research institutions, the strengthening of the trade information network, the establishment of a regional investment information and promotion service and the promotion of inter-subregional cooperation. The secretariat was directed to accord particular attention to issues related to standardization and the adoption of the ISO-9000 series, and the strengthening of the export-oriented small and medium enterprise sector, as well as to pursue studies on the particular concerns of the region with respect to the implications of the conclusion of the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations.

205. The Commission was also informed that the Action Programme for Regional Economic Cooperation in Investment-related Technology Transfer had been considered and endorsed by the Committee. In addition, the issues of regional economic cooperation and infrastructure development had been discussed intensively and the secretariat was advised to ensure effective and timely implementation of the Asian land transport infrastructure development (ALTID) project. The Commission was requested to consider the report of the Committee for Regional Economic Cooperation on its third session and to provide the necessary direction to the secretariat in its work, as well as make such recommendations as it considered appropriate.

206. The Commission appreciated the fruitful outcome of the two meetings of the Steering Group of the Committee for Regional Economic Cooperation and noted that it was playing a useful role as an operational body for intensive discussions and the sharing of experience on important issues of common concern. It commended the Steering Group on the significant progress made at its meetings in addressing issues of priority concern.

207. With regard to the Action Programme for Regional Economic Cooperation in Trade and Investment, the Commission reiterated the importance of the study on the review and analysis of intraregional trade flows, the study of foreign direct investment flows, the strengthening of the regional trade information network, and the establishment of the regional investment information and promotion service. It approved the thrust of the secretariat's activities relating to regional commodity problems. It also noted with appreciation the close cooperation and collaboration with other concerned agencies to avoid duplication of effort.

208. The Commission commended the secretariat on its efforts in promoting subregional and inter-subregional cooperation and urged that those should be intensified, as inter-subregional cooperation could greatly enhance regional cooperation. It recognized that subregional organizations could be an appropriate channel for the secretariat's assistance to developing countries of the region; it therefore welcomed the secretariat's initiatives to institutionalize its cooperative relationship with subregional organizations. The Commission noted with appreciation the Executive Secretary's recent initiative in convening the Consultative Meeting among Executive Heads of Subregional Organizations, held in Bangkok in February 1994, and urged that regular consultations be instituted.

209. Welcoming the successful conclusion of the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations, the Commission agreed that it would lead to freer flow of trade. The proposed establishment of the world trade organization was also welcomed. However, some concerns were expressed regarding the possible regression to new forms of protectionism and policies and measures posing obstacles to trade, and it was reiterated that those should not be allowed to erode the expansionary effects on trade of the Uruguay Round agreement. The Commission endorsed the recommendation of the Committee for Regional Economic Cooperation that the secretariat should pursue studies on the implications of the Uruguay Round agreements in areas of particular concern to the developing economies in the ESCAP region.

210. The Commission emphasized the importance of the secretariat's proposed programme of activities to promote regional economic cooperation in the area of standardization and, particularly, the adoption of the ISO-9000 series; it urged donors to make available adequate financial resources for such activities. While discussing the development of export-oriented small and medium enterprises, the Commission recognized the positive role of that sector in exports and highlighted the need for extending assistance in the areas of technology upgrading, entrepreneurship development, export financing and development of marketing facilities. It noted that leather products, engineering goods, electronics, textiles and services, as well as products made from natural fibres, were important sectors for the development of small and medium enterprises and recognized the usefulness of the exchange of experience in those sectors. It stressed the importance of micro-enterprises, especially in the rural sector, and of enterprise-to-enterprise cooperation for the development of those enterprises.

211. In discussing issues related to the liberalization and opening up of the disadvantaged economies in transition, the Commission suggested that the process of economic reform and deregulation being carried out could be accelerated if assistance to those economies through regional economic cooperation was sustained. In particular, it noted the secretariat's positive role in facilitating the transition of those economies and stressed the importance of assistance for human resources development.

212. The Commission endorsed the Action Programme for Regional Economic Cooperation in Investment-related Technology Transfer; it expressed deep appreciation that the programme had been designed to build up national endogenous technological

capabilities and encourage the enhancement of interregional and intraregional investment and technology flows through regional cooperation, and directed that it should be taken up for early implementation. The Commission suggested that APCTT should be fully involved in the technology transfer process. It was agreed that in the implementation of the Action Programme, particular attention should be focused on the special needs of the least developed, land-locked and island developing countries, and the disadvantaged economies in transition, so as to accelerate the process of creating or increasing their technological capacity. The Commission adopted resolution 50/9 on implementation of the Action Programme for Regional Economic Cooperation in Investment-related Technology Transfer.

213. The Commission reiterated that infrastructure development, which was also the theme topic of its current session, should receive high priority. It recognized the following four main areas for regional cooperation in infrastructure development: the sharing of experience and human resources development; consideration of the issues surrounding the mobilization of financial resources; regional policy and regulatory environment development; and joint development of infrastructure projects.

214. The Commission, while noting the report of the Committee for Regional Economic Cooperation, concurred with the Committee's directive to the secretariat, as a follow-up to the report of the Expert Group Meeting on the Development of the Asian Highway Network, held in Bangkok in November-December 1993, to continue its work on the Asian Highway, including transit facilitation arrangements, as well as studies on the Asian Highway in the ECO subregion and North-East Asia, with appropriate linkages to neighbouring countries, and to send the report of the Expert Group Meeting and the draft map of the Asian Highway to members for their observations and comments, within a stipulated period, and for clearance of the map for publication. The report, along with the views of the members, should be submitted to the Committee on Transport and Communications at its second session.

215. The Commission emphasized the need for the early completion of the ALTID project and urged its members to give priority to the implementation of the project. It emphasized the importance of facilitation measures for road and rail transport and the need for developing bilateral and subregional agreements, especially among countries members of ECO.

216. The Commission noted that the report of the Committee for Regional Economic Cooperation urged the secretariat: (a) to organize, along with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the funding agencies and organizations, and in collaboration with members and associate members, workshops on project selection, project financing and the preparation of project profiles with a view to compiling a "shelf of infrastructure projects" suitable for presentation to appropriate financial partners; and (b) to promote further regional cooperation by exchanging experience through workshops and studies in such areas as the legal and other requirements of build-operate-transfer type arrangements; the introduction of electronic data interchange; inland movement of containers; the development of expressways; and the establishment of information resources on infrastructure development.

217. The Commission recognized the need for the secretariat to collaborate with other agencies to avoid duplication of effort, and noted with appreciation the statements made by the representatives of the Asian Clearing Union (ACU), the International Pepper Community (IPC), the International Jute Organization (IJO), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) on the close collaboration with ESCAP in areas of common interest. The Commission noted the appeal by ACU to ESCAP members and associate members to request their central banks to consider joining that regional facility. It welcomed the offer of UNIDO to cooperate with ESCAP in the establishment of the regional investment information and promotion service, the activities of APCTT and the Regional Network for Agricultural Machinery (RNAM), and in the implementation of the Action Programme for Regional Economic Cooperation in Investment-related Technology Transfer, particularly in the areas of promoting the transfer of clean technology, the commercialization of biotechnology, the development of small and medium enterprises, and standardization and quality control.

218. The Commission observed that, in view of the high priority accorded to the work of the Committee for Regional Economic Cooperation, and in order to ensure meaningful consideration of issues of priority concern relating to regional economic cooperation, future sessions of the Committee should be at least two days in duration and should not overlap with the plenary session of the Commission. It directed, moreover, that special emphasis should continue to be placed on the least developed, land-locked and Pacific island developing countries and the disadvantaged economies in transition in the implementation of the secretariat's activities related to regional economic cooperation.

219. The Commission recorded its gratitude to the Governments of Australia, China, France, Germany, Japan, the Netherlands and the Republic of Korea, and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), for their generous financial support to projects being implemented by the secretariat within the subprogramme of work on regional economic cooperation. It noted with appreciation the generous hospitality of the Governments of Japan and Nepal in hosting, respectively, the third and fourth meetings of the

Steering Group of the Committee for Regional Economic Cooperation.

Implementation of the Action Programme for Regional Economic Cooperation in Trade and Investment

220. The Commission had before it document E/ESCAP/932 and Corr.1 on the implementation of the Action Programme for Regional Economic Cooperation in Trade and Investment. It was informed that the implementation of resolution 49/1 of 29 April 1993 had been facilitated with the generous funding of UNDP and donor Governments, which had supported extrabudgetary activities related to several specific components of the Action Programme. It was also informed that significant progress had been achieved in the study relating to the review and analysis of intraregional trade patterns, which had been accorded high priority by the Steering Group of the Committee for Regional Economic Cooperation, the strengthening of the regional trade information infrastructure, the networking of trade-related research institutions, and inter-subregional cooperation. Other important areas which had been accorded priority and for which the secretariat was seeking donor support related to the enhancement of quality control, the development of export-oriented small and medium enterprises, and assistance to the disadvantaged economies in transition.

221. With regard to the review and analysis of regional trade patterns, the Commission reiterated the importance and usefulness of the ongoing study, as it was expected to fill a significant gap in information regarding the pattern and direction of intraregional trade flows. It recognized that such studies on a periodic basis were important to sensitize policy makers to the likely impact of changes and developments in the global and regional trading environment. It emphasized the importance of trade and investment for the growth and development of the developing economies of the region and suggested that apart from activities addressing microeconomic issues, macroeconomic issues should also be addressed. The Commission noted with appreciation the secretariat's assistance to the disadvantaged economies in transition through a series of national workshops on economic reforms and through the provision of advisory services on macroeconomic management and economic reforms. It noted that in response to the interest expressed by members and associate members, the secretariat was undertaking consultations with UNDP to pursue studies to analyse the implications for the region's developing economies of the agreements arrived at in certain specific sectors under the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations.

222. The Commission noted that in the activities for strengthening the Regional Trade Information Network (TISNET), emphasis had been rightly placed on the collation and dissemination of trade information and on the facilitation of easy access to information. It endorsed the secretariat's efforts to strengthen trade information, *inter alia*, through cooperation with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) within its electronic trading opportunities system as well as through the secretariat's invitation to all national focal points of TISNET to participate in the system, as that would effectively strengthen the Network. The suggestion was made that research institutions should be associated with trade points.

223. The Commission expressed appreciation of the progress made in the establishment of a flexible network of trade-related research institutions, observing that that would lead to the enhancement of institutional capability-building, human resources development, and coordinated research on regional issues and other issues of common interest. It noted the efforts being made by the secretariat to develop networks at the national level through a series of national workshops as a follow-up to the Regional Workshop on Networking of Trade-related Research Institutions in Asia and the Pacific, held in Kathmandu in December 1993. A number of delegations expressed interest in the innovative approach to enhance institutional capacities while developing human resources.

224. The Commission stressed, in particular, the activities undertaken by the secretariat for the enhancement of national capabilities in quality control. It recognized the need for the developing countries to meet effectively the standards of the ISO-9000 series in order to sustain and develop their trade. It emphasized, therefore, that activities in that regard, as well as those aimed at strengthening national standardization institutions, should be implemented as early as possible, and appealed to multilateral and bilateral donor agencies to extend the necessary financial support for that purpose. The Commission also recognized the potential for undertaking technical cooperation among developing countries (TCDC) activities to strengthen national standardization institutions in view of the existence of several institutions of excellence in the region.

225. The Commission reiterated the importance of the study focusing on sectoral flows of foreign direct investment and the analysis of foreign investment policies, keeping in view the important linkage between trade and investment flows in the region. It acknowledged, however, the difficulties that could be encountered in obtaining the required disaggregated data on sectoral foreign direct investment flows for the purpose of the study.

226. With regard to the establishment of the regional investment information and promotion service, several delegations said that they were looking forward to the establishment of such a service in the region and reiterated their support for its establishment. The hope was expressed that the service would be so designed that it would also facilitate and promote investment from

outside the region. The Commission noted with appreciation that in establishing the service, the secretariat was maintaining contact with other relevant agencies, such as UNIDO, in order to avoid duplication.

227. The Commission recognized the important role played by small and medium enterprises in the exports of developing countries, and endorsed the focus of the secretariat's activities in sectors such as electronics, textiles, leather and light engineering goods. It was suggested that the linkage between small and medium enterprises and transnational corporations could also be kept in view while pursuing those activities. The suggestion was also made that the secretariat should undertake similar activities focusing on export-oriented cottage industries, the usefulness of which had been established earlier through a project for promoting exports of handicrafts from the least developed countries to Japan. Attention should also be given to human resources development, the participation of the private sector, and improvement of infrastructure for trade and investment.

228. While discussing the topic of environmental issues related to trade and investment, concern was expressed over the possibility of environmental regulations becoming new forms of protectionism. It was suggested that the proposed study should also include the impact of trade policy on the efforts towards environmental protection, in an attempt to make trade and sustainable development policies mutually supportive.

229. In view of the significant economic, scientific and technical potential of the newly independent Central Asian States and of other disadvantaged economies in transition, and recognizing the problems of those countries, in particular, the transition to a market economy, attention must be paid to the furthering of economic reforms, at the macro and micro levels, and to making the material and human resources of those countries part of regional cooperation. The Commission recognized the need to adopt a differentiated approach to the problems of individual countries in that category in view of the varying degrees of intensity and progress in the implementation of economic reforms. Several delegations, including those of India, Pakistan and the Russian Federation, offered to make their experts available to assist those economies in their transition process.

230. The Commission commended the recent initiative taken by the Executive Secretary to hold consultations with the executive heads of subregional organizations. It expressed the hope that the process would be pursued in order to strengthen ESCAP economic cooperation with subregional organizations, ASEAN, ECO, the South Pacific Forum and SAARC, and to facilitate cooperation among them. The Commission viewed the institutionalization of the cooperative relationship of ESCAP with ECO through a memorandum of understanding and with SAARC through a framework agreement as significant developments. The secretariat was directed to give added attention to promoting closer interaction with and among subregional organizations and to promote the exchange of experience in areas of common interest. Consultative meetings at the level of executive heads of ESCAP and subregional organizations should be held at least once a year and should aim at improving coordination and strengthening cooperation among them in all relevant fields. The Commission commended the secretariat on activities undertaken to promote cooperation in North-East Asia. It adopted resolution 50/8 on the strengthening of subregional economic cooperation in North-East Asia.

231. The Commission noted with appreciation the statement made by the representative of UNDP on the regional programme for strengthening capabilities for growth through trade and investment, which had enabled the secretariat to initiate action on several elements of the Action Programme. It expressed satisfaction over the emphasis on national institution capability-building and the arrangements made by ESCAP to implement the programme in a coordinated manner with other agencies such as UNCTAD, the International Finance Corporation (IFC), the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and the International Trade Centre UNCTAD/GATT (ITC). The Commission requested donors and multilateral agencies to continue to allocate extrabudgetary resources in order to ensure that further implementation of the Action Programme was not hampered because of financial constraints.

Economic and technical cooperation among developing countries

232. In introducing document E/ESCAP/933, on economic and technical cooperation among developing countries, the secretariat explained that consequent on the restructuring of the programme of work of the ESCAP secretariat along thematic lines, the subject of ECDC-TCDC was being reviewed within the context of regional economic cooperation. Accordingly, the secretariat's ECDC-TCDC activities must be juxtaposed with the pursuit of regional economic cooperation.

233. In accordance with the emphasis given by the Commission, the secretariat had accorded high priority to the enhancement of that modality of cooperation among developing countries of the ESCAP region. In that context, the Commission noted the secretariat's appeal for increased voluntary contributions to the ESCAP TCDC supplementary fund and the hosting of TCDC activities by the developing countries of the ESCAP region.

234. The secretariat confirmed that the least developed, land-locked and island developing countries, and the disadvantaged economies in transition, were accorded high priority in the TCDC activities of

ESCAP. Although its TCDC activities were spread over a wide range of subject areas, owing to operational difficulties in implementing the TCDC programme the available funds had not been utilized fully.

235. In expressing appreciation of the quality of the documentation, the Commission viewed the modality of ECDC-TCDC as being extremely useful; in emphasizing its importance, it recognized the vast potential that existed and remained unrealized for the benefit of the region's developing countries. It highlighted the diversity of forms in which that modality could be effected, among which transfer of technology, provision of experts and equipment and exchange of experience were useful means of achieving individual or collective self-reliance.

236. The Commission, while acknowledging the difficulties involved in implementing ECDC-TCDC, agreed that it should nevertheless be pursued vigorously. It recognized the role of such cooperation in forging mutually beneficial relationships, and stressed its importance as an instrument for the economic and technological development of the region's developing countries and as a catalytic agent for South-South cooperation.

237. The Commission emphasized that while the primary responsibility for initiating, implementing and financing TCDC activities lay with the developing countries themselves, additional external financial support could result in enhancing TCDC activities in the region.

238. In identifying the constraints, the Commission recognized the lack of adequate national commitment in some countries, inadequate provision of financial and human resources for follow-up, and ineffective functioning of some national focal points. It emphasized the need to pursue TCDC activities in a planned manner rather than on an ad hoc basis. However, it noted the good intentions of the member Governments, which were quite evident from the views expressed by them, and recommended that better awareness of the beneficial impact of the modalities of ECDC-TCDC in the region would mitigate the constraining factors.

239. The Commission noted that lack of information on the needs and capacities available within the region was a major impediment to undertaking matching exercises and in turn the expansion of TCDC activities. It recognized the vital role of national focal points in obtaining relevant information at the country level, and therefore stressed the need to devote serious attention to that problem. It recommended that the vital mechanism of national focal points be made more effective, which would enable the ESCAP secretariat to compile a comprehensive directory matching needs and capacities in the region.

240. With regard to the strengthening of national TCDC focal points, the Commission noted with appreciation the support of Indonesia for a study visit to the TCDC focal point of Indonesia by participating least developed countries. It also expressed appreciation of the offer of China to organize a study visit-cum-matching exercise in China, aimed at strengthening the TCDC national focal points of selected Pacific island countries and promoting operational TCDC activities between China and participating countries.

241. The Commission noted with appreciation the generous financial contributions made by China, the Netherlands, Norway and the Republic of Korea, as well as the training facilities and local-cost contributions provided by several participating developing countries. It emphasized that the sustainability of the secretariat's ECDC-TCDC activities depended on the availability of adequate financial resources; it commended the statement by UNDP reiterating its commitment to support TCDC activities. It noted that the facility extended by UNDP to developing countries to utilize 10 per cent of their national indicative planning figures (IPFs), or US$ 7.5 million, whichever was lower, for supporting their TCDC activities, had not been utilized effectively, and therefore suggested that countries should take due advantage of that facility.

242. The Commission expressed appreciation of the catalytic role of the secretariat in expanding ECDC-TCDC activities within the Asian and Pacific region, and suggested a variety of measures to strengthen that role. More specifically, it asked the secretariat to strengthen its role in the collection and dissemination of information among members and associate members, to mobilize adequate financial resources to support TCDC activities and to cooperate with other regional and subregional organizations such as ASEAN, ECO, the Pacific Forum, SAARC and the Colombo Plan.

243. The Commission stated that the catalytic role of ESCAP in promoting ECDC-TCDC activities could be strengthened through a strategy paper identifying areas and opportunities with potential for ECDC-TCDC, in which the secretariat could identify the priority needs of the region for ECDC-TCDC support and prepare a feasible programme to meet those needs.

244. It commended the proposed activities, at both the national and bilateral levels, to promote regional economic cooperation through the modality of TCDC, taking special note of the proposed TCDC activities in 1994 by Bangladesh (rural credit system), India (human resources development), Indonesia (human resources development), Republic of Korea (fisheries and the environment) and Thailand (primary health care and HIV/AIDS (human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immune deficiency syndrome)). The Commission also noted with appreciation the capacity of least developed countries to provide assistance, as was evident from the cooperation between Bangladesh and Thailand on experimenting with the very successful Grameen Bank scheme of Bangladesh.

245. While recognizing the useful role of regional institutions and mechanisms in the promotion of ECDC-TCDC, the Commission welcomed the decision of China to join the Bangkok Agreement as a positive step in strengthening regional cooperation. The potential of other existing regional trade-related cooperative arrangements, such as the Asian Clearing Union and the Asian Reinsurance Corporation, was also noted by the Commission. It commended the initiatives taken by India and Pakistan in promoting ECDC activities for the benefit of the Central Asian republics which were in transition to a market-oriented economy, in order to provide them with the requisite technical support for their development and integration into the region.

246. In the context of expansion of ECDC activities as a modality for enhancing regional economic cooperation, the role of commodity arrangements in Asia and the Pacific, such as the Asian Pacific Coconut Community (APCC) and the International Pepper Community (IPC), was recognized by the Commission, which also noted existing arrangements for other commodities, such as jute, silk, tropical timber and coffee. It further recognized the possibilities of cooperation and coordination of activities between ESCAP and other regional agencies and organizations promoting ECDC-TCDC. In that regard, the emphasis of the Colombo Plan on South-South cooperation, of the World Assembly of Small and Medium Enterprises (WASME) on entrepreneurship development and of the Asian Productivity Organization (APO) on enhancement of productivity, was identified as presenting potentially promising opportunities for cooperation.

Report on the Commission's activities for disadvantaged economies in transition

247. The Commission had before it document E/ESCAP/934 and Corr.1. It recognized that the disadvantaged economies in transition faced many problems in their efforts towards establishing market-oriented economic systems and integration into the world economy. The process of transition was bound to be complex and long, particularly because many of the required reforms were politically sensitive.

248. Macroeconomic stabilization constituted a basic prerequisite for successful transition to a market-oriented economy, which required a firm commitment on the part of the countries concerned and strong support from the international community to supplement domestic efforts.

249. A major element of the effort towards integration with the international economy was the diversification of trade links, which called for a reduction in excessive dependence on the traditional trade partners of the disadvantaged economies in transition as well as the widening of their production and export bases. It should, however, be borne in mind that such diversification should not imply a complete substitution of the past pattern of trade. What was important was that trade should be guided by market principles based on comparative advantage.

250. Disadvantaged economies in transition required substantial investment in human resources in several areas, including the design of macroeconomic and sectoral policies for the effective functioning of market-oriented economic systems and the development of new skills relevant to the effective implementation of those policies.

251. Many of the disadvantaged economies in transition would have to establish the basic institutional infrastructure for market-oriented economic systems, including banking and credit systems, the legal framework for private ownership and the creation of a competitive environment.

252. There was also great need for investment in physical infrastructure, in particular the development of transport and communications links to facilitate the redirection of trading patterns.

253. The Commission encouraged the disadvantaged economies in transition to continue market-oriented reforms, encompassing, among other things, the enhancement of the role of the private sector including through privatization, the establishment of a transparent legal framework, the reduction of price controls and subsidies, and the encouragement of competition.

254. It urged the international community to assist those economies in strengthening their aid-absorptive capacity so that more assistance could flow easily to them.

255. Several delegations elaborated on the assistance given to the disadvantaged economies in transition, as well as opportunities for assistance in the future within the framework of bilateral assistance programmes or ECDC-TCDC arrangements, such as the extension of credit lines to finance their imports and deferred payment on past dues, as well as assistance in the areas of legal expertise, foreign trade, banking, management and academic education. It was noted that there were several constraints on closer cooperation between the prospective donor countries and the disadvantaged economies in transition, among which were institutional dissimilarities, the lack of updated databases and information, and the rapidly changing regulatory framework. ESCAP could play a role in easing some of those constraints.

256. A number of delegations from disadvantaged economies in transition described measures that had been adopted and achievements with respect to macroeconomic reforms and stabilization, openness towards foreign investment and technologies, export promotion, mobilization of domestic resources to accelerate investment, development of the domestic private sector, and cooperation with other countries, particularly neighbouring ones.

257. The Commission expressed appreciation of the activities implemented by the ESCAP secretariat in support of the efforts of the economies concerned in their transition to effective market-oriented economic systems and asked the secretariat to increase such activities, particularly in the areas of human resources development and training, investment promotion, entrepreneurship development, and enhancement of the role of small and medium enterprises and of women in development. It also requested the secretariat to coordinate activities among its various units and with other international organizations such as UNDP, the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund (IMF), and ADB.

258. The representative of the Russian Federation expressed the wish of his country to participate in ESCAP activities for the economies in transition, especially those funded by UNDP, and also observed that the possibility of holding round-table discussions on economic complementarities and cooperation in North-East Asia should be explored.

259. The Commission noted with appreciation the generous support of the Governments of Indonesia, Japan, the Netherlands and the Republic of Korea to finance the participation of selected disadvantaged economies in transition in the fiftieth session of the Commission.

Implementation of paragraph 4 of Commission resolution 49/3 on the Tehran Declaration on Strengthening Regional Cooperation for Technology-led Industrialization in Asia and the Pacific

260. The Commission had before it the report on the implementation of paragraph 4 of Commission resolution 49/3 on the Tehran Declaration on Strengthening Regional Cooperation for Technology-led Industrialization in Asia and the Pacific (E/ESCAP/935). It recalled that in that paragraph of the resolution it had welcomed the offer of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran to upgrade the existing national centre, the Institute for Research in Planning and Development, located in Tehran, to provide regional and subregional facilities, and requested the Executive Secretary to examine the legal, financial and other implications and modalities and report to the Commission at its fiftieth session.

261. The Commission noted with satisfaction the secretariat's report and its conclusions that ESCAP and its regional institutions could organize joint activities with the Institute in areas of common concern and interest to countries of the region, take advantage of the range and quality of experience and expertise available at the Institute on a consultancy basis for the implementation of different projects, and use TCDC arrangements through which the participation of individuals from Western and Central Asia in training programmes of the Institute could be facilitated.

262. The Commission noted that the Institute had very good facilities, which were expanding; it had highly qualified staff for research and training and had established good working relations with several national and international organizations.

263. It agreed, therefore, that it would be expedient to use the facilities and expertise available at the Institute as proposed in the light of the financial difficulties currently confronting most subsidiary bodies of ESCAP, such as APCTT, the Regional Coordination Centre for Research and Development of Coarse Grains, Pulses, Roots and Tuber Crops in the Humid Tropics of Asia and the Pacific (CGPRT Centre) and RNAM, which needed to be further strengthened through voluntary contributions. The Commission, however, stressed the importance of the Institute collaborating with such institutions where necessary, as well as the need to limit the envisaged joint activities with ESCAP and its regional institutions to a few areas of focus, including planning, development, energy, population, and transport studies *vis-à-vis* the Asian Highway.

264. The Commission took that situation into account and welcomed the initiative of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran; it expressed appreciation of the Government's generous offer to provide regional and subregional facilities. It commended, *inter alia*, the ongoing collaborative efforts of relevant Indian institutions with Central Asian countries and the renewed offer by the Government of India of its expertise for further collaborative activities as required.

265. The Commission observed that stable economic growth in the ESCAP region was an important prerequisite, not only for regional industrial and technological development but also for the well-balanced development of the world economy. It put forward, for the consideration of the developing countries of the region, some suggestions on areas requiring attention at the national level or possible guidelines to be utilized in their quest to develop the required capabilities for the transfer, adoption and generation of industrial technology. Particular mention was made of the need to pay due regard to human resources and skills development as critical elements in the process of consolidation of a national industrial and technological base. The Commission stressed the importance of promoting the development of small and medium enterprises as subcontractors for large-scale enterprises and as supporting industries for improving international competitiveness.

266. The Commission gave clear recognition to the fact that technology transfer remained the main avenue used by most developing countries in their quest for technology-led industrialization and recommended the

employment of private-sector-led foreign direct investment as an important means for that purpose.

267. It emphasized the need for appropriate regional cooperation measures to be developed by the secretariat to promote collectively the widespread development of related national and regional capabilities in the above endeavours. It highlighted the need to focus on the harmonization of intellectual property rights, industrial standardization, and the "three Es": economic growth, energy security and environmental protection. The need to develop a common infrastructure for transport, information and communication was also stressed.

268. It noted the useful information presented and welcomed the efforts made by the Government of Japan to render assistance to developing countries in human resources development for industrial and technological development through such organizations as the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

269. The Commission expressed the view that it was necessary for the secretariat to provide continuous stable assistance for the development of industrial technology and the industrialization of developing countries in the ESCAP region. It noted with appreciation the intention of the Government of Japan to continue its positive cooperation in such efforts in the future.

Environment and sustainable development

Report of the Committee on Environment and Sustainable Development, first session, and its follow-up

270. The Commission had before it the report of the Committee on Environment and Sustainable Development on its first session (E/ESCAP/936) and endorsed the recommendations it contained. It noted with satisfaction document E/ESCAP/972 on the follow-up to that session, and also endorsed the recommendations in that document.

271. Although the issues of environment and sustainable development were treated as priority concerns, many countries of the region were handicapped in promoting programmes in support of those issues for a variety of reasons, including population pressure, slow and uneven economic growth, widespread rural and urban poverty, financial resource constraints and the overwhelming need for attending to short-term priorities. The Commission expressed concern at the environmental degradation, which was due to rising energy requirements, excessive pressure on land leading to its overuse for agricultural production, and unsustainable exploitation of forest resources, particularly in the least developed countries. It stressed the need for prudent and sensible economic policies with adequate safeguards for environmental protection, planning, and integration of environmental issues into wider decision-making.

272. With regard to the Agenda 21 priorities and their implications for the Asian and Pacific region, the Commission recognized the close linkage between the Regional Strategy on Environmentally Sound and Sustainable Development, which had been endorsed at its forty-seventh session, and Agenda 21. It also considered that the framework of action for sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific, which would support the above instruments, should be further elaborated to identify concrete programmes and projects. As priority areas, the Commission suggested the development of environmentally sound and sustainable development indicators, studies on mutually supportive trade and environment regimes, rehabilitation of degraded environmental ecosystems, effective application of economic instruments for dealing with national, regional and global environmental externalities, the enhancement of national capabilities for the implementation of Agenda 21, including mitigation of natural and man-made disasters, and access to and transfer of environmentally sound technologies.

273. The Commission further suggested that the Committee should also include in the review of Agenda 21, to the extent possible, issues related to industry and environment, tourism and environment, and environmental restoration.

274. It stressed that national capacity-building efforts should be strengthened for implementing Agenda 21 and that programmes should be organized for dealing with local, regional and global environmental issues. To achieve integration of environment and development in such areas as energy, natural resources management and implementation of the activities under the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction, each country should make the maximum effort to promote capacity-building, which should also include refinement of techniques of environmental accounting, environmental audit and the practice of environmental law. The Commission expressed appreciation of the effort of the secretariat, in cooperation with the South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme (SACEP), to promote capacity-building for coastal environmental management among the maritime countries of South Asia.

275. While satisfaction was expressed over the successful conclusion of the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations, some concern was voiced on issues linking environment and trade. In that regard, the Commission welcomed the UNDP intercountry programme on the exploitation of business opportunities/network to support trade and commerce, and urged that in addition to the study on the implications of the Uruguay Round for agricultural trade, the implications for the manufacturing industry, which was a major source of employment and income in the region, should be studied.

276. The Commission recognized that many countries of the region would have to depend on fossil fuel, in

particular, coal, for their energy supply and in fact the share of coal in the energy mix might even increase up to 50 per cent by 2010. It therefore urged the promotion of clean coal technologies by setting up demonstration projects in cooperation with the relevant United Nations organizations. It noted with appreciation the offer of the Government of China to host activities concerning clean energy.

277. The Commission considered energy planning to be a priority in the context of sustainable development. It stressed the need for the formulation and adoption of effective energy efficiency policies and for strengthening existing institutional structures and/or the establishment of new ones for the improvement of energy efficiency and promotion of energy conservation measures in the region, which should include the recycling of wastes and co-generation of electricity. The Programme for Asian Cooperation on Energy and the Environment (PACE-E), developed and funded by UNDP and executed by ESCAP in cooperation with other intergovernmental bodies and regional institutions, was considered a welcome development. The Commission also welcomed the initiative in promoting an Asia Energy Efficiency 21 project to be proposed to the Global Environment Facility (GEF) for funding.

278. The Commission also stressed the urgent need for developing policies and programmes on the sustainable use of natural resources, in particular by decreasing the demand for natural resources which promoted unsustainable consumption, and increasing efficiency of resource utilization. It also considered the linkage between population, environment and development to be very important in the socio-economic development process, and the alleviation of poverty fundamental to the achievement of sustainable development. It therefore invited special action in those areas, particularly for the least developed countries.

279. An integrated approach to the planning and management of water resources should be followed in view of the competing demand for fresh water, and the countries might wish to adopt a national water policy that would include the development of river basin master plans and, to the extent possible, promote regional and subregional cooperation.

280. The effective management of water resources would require appropriate management of land resources, for which attention should be given to sustainable management of watershed, and the management and development of wastelands. In view of the scarce land resources in many countries of the region, the Commission recommended that the secretariat should undertake a programme of review and analysis involving land, water and environmental resources with the objective of promoting policies, programmes and technologies for the sustainable use of land.

281. The Commission noted that in the process of planning for sustainable development, the application of geoscience to land-use planning was important, particularly in rapidly expanding urban centres, coastal zones and densely populated areas. It therefore agreed that the integration of geoscience methodology into land-use planning should be promoted and applied, particularly in coastal zone and urban planning development and management of urban and densely populated areas.

282. The Commission recognized that to a large extent sustainable development concerned the availability and accessibility of resources. In view of the importance of the rational development and beneficial exploration of mineral resources, it welcomed the efforts of the secretariat in mineral resources assessment and the promotion of foreign and national private investment in the mining sector.

283. It urged the secretariat to undertake activities for the evaluation of the economic potential and possibility of exploration of mineral resources on the shelf zone of North-East Asia. It also requested that the far eastern region of the Russian Federation be included in the geological hazard map of East Asia. Specific programmes should be developed with regard to the rehabilitation of the ecosystem of the Aral and Caspian seas.

284. Information on earth space applications had been of immense benefit to environmental monitoring, natural resources management and sustainable development planning in both developed and developing countries. The Commission noted with satisfaction that ESCAP and UNDP had jointly initiated a regional programme on integrated applications of geographic information systems (GIS) and remote sensing to environment and natural resources management, and that the secretariat had already successfully implemented a number of technical assistance activities under that programme.

285. The Commission noted with appreciation the Executive Secretary's decision to establish a Space Technology Applications Unit in the ESCAP secretariat to provide support in promoting space technology applications for sustainable development. It recognized that in implementing Agenda 21 and attaining sustainable development, there was increasingly greater need for promoting regional and subregional cooperation in the wider use of space technology, particularly remote sensing and GIS technologies, and for strong regional coordination.

286. The Commission, however, felt that review, within a period of three years, of all the Agenda 21 programme areas as set out by the Committee on Environment and Sustainable Development was an ambitious task that would necessitate the setting of manageable priorities. It urged closer cooperation with other United Nations and intergovernmental organizations in that process so as to avoid duplication.

287. The Commission attached importance to strengthening regional cooperation activities and providing support to subregional organizations. The activities for such cooperation should include consideration of the environment in decision-making, developing environmentally sound and sustainable development indicators based on internationally acceptable methodology, and a database on the environment, drawing primarily on national sources for the purpose of monitoring and assessment of sustainable development trends. In that regard, the Commission noted with satisfaction the efforts of the secretariat in preparation for the 1995 report on the state of the environment. The secretariat might draw on the resources of the subregional organizations to procure country information based on ESCAP formats and guidance. In that process, the subregional organizations were to prepare their own reports, preferably in line with the format of the regional report. The Commission also noted with appreciation the offer of the Government of Myanmar to host an expert group meeting to review the draft documents for the 1995 report.

288. A number of countries expressed disappointment at the serious lack of new and additional resources from donor countries, while recognizing that, in the implementation of Agenda 21, it was extremely important for adequate financial resources to be made available from domestic as well as external sources. The Commission urged that the donors continue to make every effort to increase their bilateral and multilateral financial assistance.

289. The Commission also noted the stagnation, and in some cases cut-backs, in official development assistance (ODA) and the difficulties that had been encountered in the restructuring and replenishment of GEF resources, which exercise had since been completed. The current estimates on the need for financing were poorly defined and subject to wide variation. However, it was recognized that sustainable development was a long-term objective requiring a fully integrated approach and forward-looking strategies on the part of the donors as well as the recipient countries.

290. The Commission strongly urged the active participation of the private sector, local government, NGOs, people's groups and the public at large in the daunting task of the promotion of sustainable development, in view of the resource and manpower constraints that the countries of the region were facing.

291. It took note of the information on their activities provided by the organizations of the United Nations and intergovernmental organizations such as UNCTAD, UNDP, FAO, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the World Health Organization (WHO), the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) and SACEP. It expressed appreciation for the support provided by UNDP through the Programme for Asian Cooperation on Energy and the Environment (PACE-E), GIS and the Regional Remote Sensing Programme (RRSP) and a number of other country projects in support of natural resources and environmental management for sustainable development. The representative of WHO stated that human health should be included in all aspects of development activities and assured the Commission of the fullest cooperation of his organization. FAO support in the region for sustainable agricultural, forestry and fisheries development was highly appreciated. The Commission noted in particular the case-studies by UNCTAD on commodity production and trade, which aimed at establishing a factual basis with regard to the management of natural resources and protection of the environment in four countries of the region. It also appreciated the opportunity existing in ICIMOD for operationalizing chapter 13 of Agenda 21 for developments that were mountain-specific, such as in the Hindu Kush-Himalayan region. The Commission also took note of the effort of UNESCO in setting up an inter-agency and interdisciplinary project to deal with educational innovation for development and the social dimension of population and environment. The representative of SACEP mentioned the regional environmental information centre that the Programme was establishing to provide support to its member countries. The Commission also noted with satisfaction the efforts of all the organizations working within the framework of the Inter-agency Committee on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific.

Implementation of Agenda 21 in Asia and the Pacific

292. The Commission had before it the report on the implementation of Agenda 21 in Asia and the Pacific (E/ESCAP/937) and endorsed the views contained in the document, in particular, the specific plan of ESCAP for the implementation of Agenda 21, to be submitted to the Commission on Sustainable Development at its second session, as required by General Assembly resolution 47/191 of 22 December 1992 on institutional arrangements to follow up the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development.

293. The Commission noted with great appreciation the effort made by the countries of the region in follow-up of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, in particular the establishment of institutional arrangements in the form of national councils for sustainable development, the formulation of national strategies and action plans for the implementation of Agenda 21, and review of policies and programmes for the promotion of sustainable development.

294. The Commission was encouraged that Agenda 21 was becoming a central part of the programme of work of the secretariat. It endorsed the timetable for reporting and the proposed mechanism for review of the sectoral and cross-sectoral issues by chapter, as recommended by the Committee on Environment and

Sustainable Development at its first session. The scheduling of the review and areas of focus took into account the priority concerns and the need for review at the regional level. In order to avoid duplication of work with the Commission on Sustainable Development, the ESCAP review should be more programme-oriented in regard to the implementation of Agenda 21 in the region and articulate the regional viewpoints on the opportunities and difficulties involved in the full implementation of Agenda 21.

295. The Commission welcomed the secretariat effort in organizing a ministerial-level conference on environment and development in Asia and the Pacific in 1995, with an appropriate agenda, as one of the mechanisms for regional review of the implementation of Agenda 21. It noted, however, the need for the incorporation in the agenda of an item on the transfer of technology, as had been recommended by the Committee on Environment and Sustainable Development.

296. It recognized that global environmental issues such as climate change, with the associated problems of its impact on agriculture, sea-level rise and increased frequency of weather-related hazards, hazardous wastes and loss of biological diversity, had become important and there was urgent need to push for a collective and integrated approach. The Commission noted with satisfaction the ratification by a number of countries of international conventions such as the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal, and requested other countries to accelerate the process of ratification to enable their full participation in conferences of parties to those conventions.

297. The Commission urged the secretariat to undertake catalytic activities for strengthening sustainable development efforts in the region in the following areas: coastal and marine environment and development; desertification control; biodiversity conservation; management of natural parks and reserves; promotion of clean technologies, including management of hazardous wastes; development of environmental management tools and methodologies; strengthening regional and subregional cooperation, including transboundary environmental issues; and involving NGOs, the media and other major groups in environmental enhancement programmes.

298. It expressed satisfaction at the establishment and functioning of networks for capacity-building, in particular, on the media, the marine environment and oceanographic studies, desertification control, economics, environmental policy research institutes and local governments.

299. The Commission also expressed satisfaction with the work of the Inter-agency Committee on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific and observed that preparation of the inter-agency coordinated plan of action for the implementation of Agenda 21 and identification of joint activities were steps in the right direction to avoid duplication of activities. It also noted with satisfaction the objectives of and tasks performed by the Interagency Task Force on Water for Asia and the Pacific and the Interagency Committee on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific.

300. The Commission felt that its work in the follow-up of Agenda 21 should be closely linked to the process and outcome of the meetings of the Commission on Sustainable Development. It would therefore be looking forward to the substantive discussion and conclusions of that Commission concerning national, regional and international efforts to implement Agenda 21. The issue of financing and technology transfer as a means to implement Agenda 21 was discussed and ESCAP would be eagerly awaiting the outcome of the negotiations at the two intersessional working groups set up by the Commission on Sustainable Development at its last session. In the meantime, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific requested that regional-level efforts should continue on the basis of the identification of appropriate technologies and the exchange of information on environmentally sound technologies. The Commission, however, noted that the workshop in Cartagena, sponsored by the United States of America and by Colombia, which held the chair of the Group of 77, had recommended a comprehensive survey of publicly available environmentally sound technologies as well as the preparation of case-studies of particular countries' requirements for and capacity to apply environmentally sound technologies. Similarly, it noted the outcome of the meeting held in Kuala Lumpur, sponsored by Japan and Malaysia, which had addressed practical alternatives for financing the implementation of Agenda 21. The Commission also noted with satisfaction the generous offer of the Government of Japan to share with the developing countries of the region its experience and information on environmentally sound technologies.

301. Multilateral development banks had a key role to play in promoting sustainable development with their lending activities, and the Commission encouraged closer cooperation between the organizations of the United Nations system and the multilateral development banks. It urged the secretariat to undertake dialogue for further programme development with the multilateral development banks, including the World Bank, private sector banks in the region and interested government representatives, on investment promotion for sustainable development. It was also interested in learning the outcome of the joint study conducted by the secretariat and ADB on the financing of environmentally sound development in the context of the feasibility of establishing a regional funding mechanism.

Preparations for the Ministerial Conference on Space Applications for Development in Asia and the Pacific

302. The Commission had before it document E/ESCAP/938 and Corr.1, which presented a report on the preparations for the Ministerial Conference on Space Applications for Development in Asia and the Pacific, to be held in Beijing in September 1994.

303. All the major activities in connection with the preparations for the Ministerial Conference had been completed. Those included the annual Meeting of the Directors of National Remote Sensing Centres/ Programmes in the ESCAP Region and the ninth session of the Intergovernmental Consultative Committee on the Regional Remote Sensing Programme, which had been held in Islamabad in May 1993; the Meeting of the Eminent Experts on Space Applications for Development in the Asia-Pacific Region, held in Bangkok in October 1993; expert consultancy services for the preparation of documents for the Conference; and the Consultative Group Meeting of Senior Experts Preparatory to the Ministerial Conference on Space Applications for Development in Asia and the Pacific, held in Bangkok in March 1994.

304. The Commission was further informed that initial preparatory efforts for the Conference had been made at the Meeting of the Directors and the ninth session of the Intergovernmental Consultative Committee, which were supported by the Government of France, with host facilities provided by the Government of Pakistan. It was noted that a concept paper covering the issues to be discussed at the Conference and the programme aspects of the regional space applications programmes prepared by the secretariat had been discussed and further developed at those meetings. The resulting revised concept paper had been further discussed at the Expert Group Meeting Preparatory to the First Session of the Committee on Environment and Sustainable Development, held in Bangkok in September-October 1993, and had received the endorsement of that Committee at its first session.

305. The Meeting of the Eminent Experts on Space Applications for Development in the Asia-Pacific Region had been held in Bangkok in October 1993, with the participation of eight experts from member countries. It had provided general guidelines on the preparations for the Conference and identified the areas to be covered in the documentation. Based on the recommendations of that Meeting, the following basic documents for the Conference had been completed with assistance from three expert consultants from the region: (a) "Status and future trends of space technology in relation to sustainable development in the ESCAP region"; (b) "Issues concerning space technology and applications for sustainable development in the ESCAP region"; (c) "Strategy for regional cooperation in space applications for sustainable development"; and (d) "Action plan on space applications for development in the ESCAP region".

306. The Commission was further informed that those draft documents had been reviewed at the Consultative Group Meeting of Senior Experts held in March 1994, which had been attended by 69 senior-level experts and 11 observers from 26 member countries and regional and international organizations. Based on that review, the documents were being finalized by the secretariat. It was expected that the essential documents would be completed soon and would be ready for distribution to members and associate members by the end of June 1994. The Commission noted that the Consultative Group had prepared a draft ministerial declaration to be issued at the conclusion of the Conference, announcing the launching of a regional space applications programme for development in the ESCAP region.

307. The Commission requested that the recommendations adopted by the Consultative Group Meeting of Senior Experts, at which the member countries had been widely represented, should be reflected and incorporated in the documentation to be considered by the Conference. It expressed satisfaction that the regional space applications programme for development to be launched by the Conference was likely to adopt an application-driven, programme-oriented and open approach to regional cooperation with emphasis on remote sensing, GIS, meteorological satellite applications, space telecommunications, satellite navigation, disaster mitigation and other related space technology applications through the promotion of human resources development and national capacity-building. The Commission agreed that it was premature to propose a regional institutional arrangement such as the establishment of an Asian and Pacific space agency.

308. A compendium of space-related activities would be published as a background document, providing a record of the contemporary status of space technology and applications in the region. Questionnaires had been used to conduct a survey and the responses received from and the information provided by the members and associate members were encouraging. The Commission acknowledged the support of the Governments of France and the Philippines for the secondment of experts to assist in the preparation of the compendium, which would be ready for circulation during the Conference.

309. The Commission expressed satisfaction at the success of various preparatory processes and acknowledged the wide support and high level of participation by members and associate members in the various preparatory activities.

310. It recorded its appreciation of various national preparatory efforts, including the setting up of national

coordination or preparatory committees by its members for the Conference. It noted with satisfaction that several countries had already decided to send high-level delegations to the Conference and it called on others to participate actively. In view of the multisectoral nature of space technology applications, the Commission strongly encouraged wider participation and the involvement of various national sectors in the preparatory activities for the Conference.

311. The delegation of China informed the Commission that it had carried out a series of national preparatory activities to ensure successful hosting of the Conference. To achieve adequate ministerial representation from the least developed countries in the region, the Government of China would provide financial support for the participation of 13 ministers from those countries, who would be the guests of the Government of China during the Conference.

312. The Commission expressed appreciation of the generous contributions and facilities being extended by the Government of China, which would no doubt contribute to making the Conference a success.

313. The Commission examined the tentative programme for the Conference and associated activities and was satisfied with its structure, which covered the Preparatory Meeting of Senior Officials, the Ministerial Conference, the Symposium on Space Technology and Applications for Sustainable Development and an exhibition. The draft provisional agendas for the Preparatory Meeting of Senior Officials and the Ministerial Conference, annexed to document E/ESCAP/938, were also examined and endorsed.

314. The Commission commended the ESCAP secretariat for successfully organizing various preparatory activities in connection with the Conference and thanked the Government of Japan for its generous financial support for the preparatory efforts. It also acknowledged the support of the Government of France, in the form of both finance and the secondment of an expert. The secondment of an expert by the Government of the Philippines and the provision of experts by Australia, China, France, India, Indonesia, Japan, Pakistan and Thailand were also acknowledged. The Commission expressed appreciation to those Governments for their generous assistance.

315. The Commission expressed appreciation to UNDP for its continued support in promoting remote sensing and GIS applications in the region. It noted with appreciation the active participation and involvement of UNDP and other financial institutions and expressed the hope that there would be closer cooperation with UNDP, the World Bank, ADB and other international agencies in the new regional endeavour.

Poverty alleviation through economic growth and social development

Report of the Committee on Poverty Alleviation through Economic Growth and Social Development, first session, and its follow-up

316. The Commission had before it the report of the Committee on Poverty Alleviation through Economic Growth and Social Development, first session, and its follow-up (E/ESCAP/939). It noted that the Committee, which had met in Bangkok from 20 to 24 September 1993, had considered three major items: the regional poverty situation and national and international responses to that situation; strategies to promote people's participation in poverty alleviation through community-based approaches, target-group-oriented programmes and NGOs; and the Commission's programme of work in the field of poverty alleviation. The Committee session had been preceded by the Expert Group Meeting on National Poverty Concepts and Measurement in the ESCAP Region; the report of that Meeting had been transmitted to the Committee and included in its deliberations.

317. The Commission reviewed the report of the Committee and found it to be comprehensive and useful; it took note of the report and endorsed the recommendations it contained.

318. In reviewing the report and its recommendations, several delegations expressed reservations on certain specific points. With regard to recommendation (1), which emphasized the need to accelerate the pace of economic development, one delegation suggested that, in view of the focus of the report on poverty alleviation, strategies for economic growth might better emphasize issues of sustainability and equity rather than the velocity of economic growth. It was also suggested that recommendation (14), in which countries were urged to free resources for anti-poverty efforts by restructuring their external debt, should be broadened and generalized to include overall patterns of public expenditure for more effective promotion of broad-based economic growth and social investment. The Commission also expressed concern that there was no recommendation addressing the fact that women and children were disproportionately represented among the world's poor.

319. The Commission acknowledged the importance of and affirmed its strong support for the ESCAP thematic programme on poverty alleviation through economic growth and social development. It emphasized that due consideration should be given by all policy-making bodies at the national, subregional, regional and international levels to the fact that more than two thirds of the world's poor, approximately 800 million persons, resided in the ESCAP region. It was also recognized that the main victims of poverty were children and women, who suffered most in terms of

malnutrition, poor health, illiteracy, low life expectancy and substandard housing.

320. In stressing the importance of achieving sustainable development and the relationship with population dynamics and environmental concerns, the Commission recognized the need to accelerate social progress, including equitable distribution of wealth, relative to economic growth, particularly in favour of the rural and urban poor and other disadvantaged and vulnerable groups, including women, children and youth, the elderly, persons with disabilities and minority groups. It was agreed that the challenge of development in the broadest sense was to improve the quality of life. That would entail not simply higher incomes but the active pursuit of, *inter alia*, education for all, health for all, equalization of opportunities for all, improved infrastructure, protection and upgrading of the environment and enrichment of cultural life.

321. A number of delegations informed the Commission of their countries' national plans, approaches and experience in alleviating poverty. In view of the varying national circumstances and development priorities, the Commission acknowledged that there could be no standard formula for sustainable and successful poverty alleviation. Successful experience was cited by delegations in reducing poverty rates, raising literacy rates, lowering infant mortality rates, increasing access of the rural population to safe drinking water and other programmes providing basic social services. The Commission was informed that some countries in the region were already in the process of implementing some of the recommendations contained in the report of the Committee. It was also informed of the close partnership arrangements that had been developed between government agencies and NGOs in some countries of the region.

322. It was agreed that, in ensuring the success of poverty alleviation programmes, the following matters should be taken into consideration: human resources development through education and training; employment expansion and income generation, particularly in labour-intensive activities; decentralized and target-oriented approaches involving the participation of NGOs; enhancing productivity and promoting self-reliance among the poor; improving the participation and status of women; and agricultural and rural development, emphasizing regional balance and open markets. It was noted that initiatives and the catalytic role of the Governments and their sustained commitment and coordination were critically important ingredients for success.

323. The Commission acknowledged the need for continued exchange of experience in poverty alleviation efforts among countries in the region and welcomed the offer of several countries to share their successful experience with others. Towards that end, it was suggested that information on successful poverty alleviation programmes should be documented and exchanged among members and associate members for their further consideration. In addition, the possibilities for enhanced partnership arrangements between Governments and NGOs in the delivery of social services should be further explored with a view to devising general guidelines. The conduct of in-depth studies was also suggested on linkages between poverty, population, resources, the environment and development; poverty (rural and urban) mapping; and the identification of poverty indicators for monitoring purposes as a basis for the development of poverty alleviation policies.

324. It was emphasized that the secretariat should continue to make every effort to assist developing countries in the region in the formulation of poverty alleviation policies, plans and programmes and in mobilizing resources for the implementation of those efforts. While recognizing that the formulation and implementation of poverty alleviation programmes were primarily the responsibility of the countries themselves, it was emphasized that sustained coordination between ESCAP and all other United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, intergovernmental organizations and NGOs in the region, was essential.

Report on the Ministerial Conference on Urbanization in Asia and the Pacific, and its follow-up

325. The Commission had before it documents E/ESCAP/940, E/ESCAP/941 and Corr.1 and E/ESCAP/942 and Add.1. It noted with satisfaction that the Ministerial Conference on Urbanization in Asia and the Pacific, held in Bangkok from 27 October to 2 November 1993, had been stimulating, thought-provoking and well attended. The documents prepared for the Conference, as well as those resulting from it, were considered relevant input into the second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), to be held in Istanbul, Turkey in 1996, and to the World Summit for Social Development, to be held in Copenhagen in 1995. It confirmed that the format adopted, that of parallel meetings of the various important urban actors and the convening of the Asia-Pacific Urban Forum, allowed a broad spectrum of interested groups in the field of urban development to make meaningful contributions to the formulation of the Regional Action Plan on Urbanization and the Bangkok Declaration on Sustainable Urban Development and Management in Asia and the Pacific.

326. The Commission recognized that urbanization was inevitable and currently, perhaps, one of the most significant features of social and economic change; it agreed that the Asia-Pacific Urban Forum should be convened periodically since it provided a platform for groups with often diverging goals to exchange ideas and to harmonize their objectives in order to become more effective in striving for productive urban development.

The next meeting of the Forum should be held prior to the second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II). The Commission further agreed that there was considerable scope for the policy-making process at the country level to be made more participatory through national urban forums, and urged members and associate members to institutionalize that concept at both the city and national levels.

327. The Bangkok Declaration on Sustainable Urban Development and Management in Asia and the Pacific, as adopted at the Ministerial Conference, was fully supported and endorsed by the Commission; it agreed that the Declaration was pragmatic and reflected properly and adequately the need to address the challenges of urbanization in an effective way and to promote regional cooperation among members and associate members of the Commission.

328. The Commission endorsed the Regional Action Plan on Urbanization which had been adopted by the Ministerial Conference and presented in document E/ESCAP/941. It noted that the comprehensive Plan responded to the need for new, more vigorous and coordinated action at all levels of government and among international organizations, to address the pressing urban issues, particularly the social consequences thereof. It commended the secretariat on having implemented in February 1994 the recommendation in the Plan that an inter-organizational committee on urbanization for Asia and the Pacific be established. The Commission adopted resolution 50/3 on participatory human settlements development.

329. The Commission complimented the countries that had already implemented several of the actions contained in the Plan's seven recommendations and heard with interest that policies and programmes in line with the Plan had been adopted in India, Indonesia, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. It was noted that the six-year time-frame proposed in the Plan was ambitious and might need to be extended.

330. The Commission supported the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000 and saw the role of Governments as "getting the enabling environment right", so as to encourage the private sector, NGOs and the community to supply housing and associated services (such as roads, transport and access to drinking water). It noted that the new urban poor were affected most by the problems associated with rapid urbanization and it would be necessary to strengthen dialogue so as to encourage them to participate in finding their own solutions to their own problems.

331. The Commission welcomed the progress report on the formulation and implementation of shelter strategies towards the year 2000, contained in documents E/ESCAP/942 and Add.1, which provided a wealth of information on the development of shelter policies in the region. It noted that most members and associate members had taken action on shelter strategy development; some were proceeding with the implementation of their policies and others were already reviewing their experience and considering revisions of the strategies adopted. The Commission urged members and associate members to continue providing information on the progress made in the formulation and implementation of shelter strategies, as and when requested by the secretariat.

332. The Commission supported the Urban Management Programme for Asia and the Pacific which sought to develop policies and practices to improve the efficiency of urban land and housing markets. It also promoted deregulation, more appropriate building standards, better zoning policies, title to land and the shortening of administrative procedures as the best way to reduce costs and allow significant growth in low-income housing, business and commercial activity. The operational framework of the Programme was based on a synchronized pooling of resources and sharing of experience and expertise among involved countries in the region; the Commission looked with optimism at the synergistic effects of the programme. Core funding for the Programme was provided by UNDP, with ESCAP, the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) and the World Bank as partner agencies and several bilateral donors and NGOs providing substantial input.

333. The Commission noted with interest that the two networks initiated by ESCAP, the Network of Training Research and Information Institutes in Human Settlements in Asia and the Pacific (TRISHNET) and the Regional Network of Local Authorities for the Management of Human Settlements (CITYNET), were providing useful services to countries and cities in the region. It was suggested that ESCAP, possibly through TRISHNET, could initiate a regional research and exchange programme covering innovative financing and management of capital-intensive and high-tech urban infrastructure projects as well as innovative and successful approaches to deal with urban poverty alleviation in a sustainable manner. The members of CITYNET, which was now fully operational, with its secretariat in Yokohama, Japan, included 39 cities and 40 organizations. As it was going through a vulnerable stage in its development from being a project to an independent network, it needed the support of ESCAP, UNDP and other agencies to implement its activities, although a large amount of funds had been generated through counterpart funding, primarily from its members. It looked in particular to the Urban Management Programme for Asia and the Pacific, the World Bank-executed Metropolitan Environmental Improvement Programme and the UNDP-executed Asia-Pacific 2000 Programme for such support and cooperation. The Commission was pleased to note the cooperative relationship developed by CITYNET between the United Towns Organization, European cities and member cities in the region, particularly in the field of municipal environmental management.

Regional preparations for the World Summit for Social Development

334. The Commission had before it document E/ESCAP/943 and Corr.1 and 2, which reviewed the preparations under way for the Asian and Pacific Ministerial Conference in Preparation for the World Summit for Social Development, to be held in Manila from 12 to 18 October 1994.

335. The Commission recalled that the General Assembly, in its resolution 47/92 of 16 December 1992, had decided to convene the World Summit for Social Development in March 1995. It was noted that, in 1992, with the World Summit in mind, the Commission had adopted the Manila Declaration on a Social Development Strategy for the ESCAP Region Towards the Year 2000 and Beyond, which had been formulated at the Fourth Asian and Pacific Ministerial Conference on Social Welfare and Social Development, held in Manila in October 1991. It was against that background that the Commission had decided to convene a regional ministerial conference in preparation for the World Summit.

336. The Commission considered that General Assembly resolution 47/92 and the three core issues identified therein, poverty alleviation, social integration and employment expansion, were particularly relevant to the development concerns of the ESCAP region. As those three themes would be the focus of the agenda at the World Summit, it was stressed that the Ministerial Conference should also focus on those themes. The Conference could thus serve as a major event for galvanizing a regional consensus on social development in anticipation of the World Summit.

337. The Commission endorsed the proposal that the forthcoming Ministerial Conference should adopt a social development agenda for the ESCAP region into the twenty-first century and that the decisions of the Conference should be brought to the attention of the Preparatory Committee for the World Summit for Social Development at its third substantive session, to be held in January-February 1995, and, subsequently, to the World Summit in Copenhagen in March 1995.

338. The draft regional social development agenda should contain a concrete, practical and target-oriented action programme. The Commission emphasized that the agenda should be closely linked with and build upon the Social Development Strategy for the ESCAP Region Towards the Year 2000 and Beyond, adopted by the Fourth Asian and Pacific Ministerial Conference, in view of the pragmatic and practical framework for action that the Strategy provided. The Commission adopted resolution 50/6 on regional preparations for the World Summit for Social Development.

339. The Commission noted with appreciation the information provided by several delegations on the initiatives, including the establishment of national coordinating bodies, being undertaken by their respective Governments in preparation for the World Summit. Those initiatives could also serve as means of ensuring effective national preparations for the Conference. The Commission expressed appreciation to the Government of Australia for its contribution to the regional preparations for the World Summit through the provision of the services of an expert to assist the secretariat, and through its provision of funds to the United Nations Trust Fund for the World Summit to assist representatives from Cambodia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Viet Nam and the Pacific island countries in attending preparatory meetings and the Ministerial Conference.

340. The representative of Sri Lanka, in expressing his Government's support for the regional preparations for the World Summit, requested the Commission to support the proposal of the Prime Minister of Sri Lanka to convene a world summit on youth in 1995.

341. The Commission noted with appreciation the activities of the secretariat, in collaboration with concerned United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, intergovernmental organizations and NGOs, to assist Governments of the region in their preparations for the Conference. That included the organization of preparatory meetings, the preparation of documentation for those meetings and for the Conference, and the undertaking of a variety of public information and related activities. It was observed that many countries supported the preparatory meetings, consisting of a regional symposium of NGOs, an expert group meeting and a meeting of the Interagency Task Force on Implementation of the Social Development Strategy for the ESCAP Region Towards the Year 2000 and Beyond, which would provide valuable input into the formulation of a draft social development agenda for the ESCAP region into the twenty-first century.

342. In addition to the reports of the above-mentioned preparatory meetings and the draft regional social development agenda, the secretariat would prepare a series of background documents for the Conference, including reports on the regional social situation and analytical studies of the major issues of poverty alleviation, social integration and employment expansion in the Asian and Pacific context. The analytical study of employment expansion would be prepared by the International Labour Organization (ILO). It was also announced that, in pursuance of Commission resolution 49/9 of 29 April 1993 on the eradication of preventable diseases in the Asian and Pacific region as a component of social and economic development, WHO would submit a report on that subject to the Conference. Furthermore, the secretariat, in collaboration with concerned United Nations bodies and specialized agencies and intergovernmental organizations, would prepare an integrated report on international support measures in promoting social development in the ESCAP region for submission as a background

document at the Conference. In endorsing those preparatory activities and commending the secretariat on the effective work under way, the Commission emphasized the need to ensure that the documentation was made available to all members and associate members well before the Conference.

343. The Commission noted that the secretariat, in collaboration with the Government of the Philippines, as well as concerned United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, intergovernmental organizations, NGOs and the media, would undertake public information activities to obtain high-level participation in the Conference and to sensitize the public at large in the ESCAP region to the major issues to be addressed at the Conference. Those activities would include support for national awareness campaigns and the preparation for distribution and display of information notes, a press kit, a conference brochure, a poster and other publicity materials.

344. The Commission noted with satisfaction the activities being undertaken by the Interagency Task Force in preparation for the Conference. It expressed appreciation of the work under way by several United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, and by intergovernmental organizations, including the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), UNCTAD, UNDP, ILO, UNESCO, WHO and ADB, whose representatives had informed the Commission of the activities of their organizations in support of the regional preparations for the World Summit for Social Development.

Regional preparations for the Fourth World Conference on Women: Action for Equality, Development and Peace

345. The Commission had before it document E/ESCAP/944, which reviewed preparations for the Fourth World Conference on Women: Action for Equality, Development and Peace. It commended the secretariat on its preparations for the Second Asian and Pacific Ministerial Conference on Women in Development.

346. The Commission recalled that in its resolution 46/6 of 13 June 1990 on the integration of women in all aspects of development, it had requested the Executive Secretary to convene in 1993 a regional intergovernmental meeting to review the progress achieved in Asia and the Pacific in implementing the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women. The Economic and Social Council, in its resolution 1990/12 of 24 May 1990, had recommended that a world conference on women be held in 1995. That resolution had been endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 45/129 of 14 December 1990 on the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies. In the light of those resolutions, it was decided that the Second Asian and Pacific Ministerial Conference on Women in Development would be convened in 1994. It was envisaged that the Ministerial Conference would serve as a regional preparatory activity for the Fourth World Conference on Women, to be held in Beijing from 4 to 15 September 1995.

347. Regarding the venue and dates of the Ministerial Conference, the Commission recalled that at its forty-ninth session it had endorsed the proposal of the Government of Indonesia that the Conference be convened in Jakarta from 7 to 14 June 1994. At its forty-eighth session, it had endorsed the provisional time-frame and agenda of the Conference. According to the provisional time-frame, the Conference would comprise two sessions: a five-day Meeting of Senior Officials on Women in Development which would serve as a preparatory meeting for the two-day Ministerial Conference. It would be devoted primarily to (a) review and appraisal of the regional implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies, and (b) the formulation of a plan of action to advance the status of women in Asia and the Pacific in keeping with the aims and objectives of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies. In order to focus attention on the critical regional issues and priorities in line with the global vision reflected in the Strategies, the Meeting would be divided into three working groups, each of which would deliberate on one of the following three major areas of concern: (a) women in economic development; (b) women in social development; and (c) women and empowerment. The Ministerial Conference would be convened immediately after the preparatory Meeting of Senior Officials. It would provide a venue in which ministers responsible for the advancement of the status of women in the ESCAP region could exchange views and reach a consensus on further action to implement the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies in the region. Consideration and adoption of a plan of action for the advancement of the status of women in Asia and the Pacific would be the highlight of the Ministerial Conference. The Commission adopted resolution 50/4 on regional preparations for the Fourth World Conference on Women, 1995: Second Asian and Pacific Ministerial Conference on Women in Development, 1994.

348. The Commission held the view that the preparations for the Fourth World Conference on Women should be based on the conferences preceding it, such as the World Conference on Human Rights, held in Vienna in June 1993, the International Conference on Population and Development, to be held in Cairo in September 1994, and the World Summit for Social Development, to be held in Copenhagen in March 1995. The Commission supported the goals for the Fourth World Conference adopted at the 1993 session of the Commission on the Status of Women. Delegations suggested a number of topics for consideration in the preparations for the Conference, such as the role and

participation of rural women, the participation of community-based organizations and NGOs and of youth, women's access to education, health and employment, the plight of the girl child and violence against women.

349. The Commission welcomed the activities undertaken by several Governments in preparation for the Ministerial Conference and the Fourth World Conference on Women. Many Governments had established national committees or focal points, most of which included both governmental and non-governmental representatives. Preparations at the national level included information material, the publication of leaflets, posters, special programmes in the mass media, and the organization of workshops and training. In some countries national preparations consisted of activities centred on such issues as violence against women, decision-making, women and the mass media, the role of women in development and the plight of rural women.

350. As part of the preparations for the Ministerial Conference, the secretariat had convened two inter-agency meetings to enhance coordination and cooperation among concerned United Nations bodies and agencies in the region in support of the Conference. The Commission took note of the activities being undertaken by United Nations bodies and agencies to assist member countries in preparing for the World Conference in matters related to their respective areas of competence.

351. As a preparatory activity for the Ministerial Conference, ESCAP and the National Commission on the Role of Filipino Women had convened the Asian and Pacific Symposium of Non-governmental Organizations on Women in Development in Manila in November 1993. The Symposium had been attended by 550 participants from 320 NGOs and around 100 observers. Twelve issue-based workshops had discussed health, labour rights, agriculture, culture and education, political empowerment, economic empowerment, violence against women, human rights, science and technology, indigenous women, the family and the environment. There were also four subregional workshops, on South-East Asia, East Asia, South Asia and the Pacific. An NGO draft plan of action formulated on the basis of deliberations at the Symposium would be submitted to the Ministerial Conference.

352. The Commission noted that the secretariat had prepared the following background papers: (a) a regional overview of the progress made and problems encountered in the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies; that paper was based on country-level data and information from the national reports prepared by the national focal points for the advancement of women; (b) one paper each on women in economic development, women in social development and women and empowerment; and (c) a draft plan of action for the advancement of the status of women in Asia and the Pacific. In addition, the secretariat would issue a number of information papers on specific issues for the Conference.

353. The Commission recalled that at its forty-ninth session it had agreed that the national reports on the status of women required for the preparation of documentation for the Ministerial Conference should be submitted to the ESCAP secretariat by November 1993; however, only a few Governments had given the national reports to the secretariat. It therefore noted with concern that the secretariat's preparation of the regional review had been delayed. It stressed the urgency of submitting those reports to the secretariat in order that the draft regional plan of action for the advancement of the status of women in Asia and the Pacific would reflect the regional priority concerns derived from the national reports.

354. The Commission was informed that the preparation of the background documents had relied heavily on data and information available from various United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, as well as published sources.

355. The Commission was informed that the secretariat had convened the Expert Group Meeting on Women in Development in Bangkok in February 1994 to review the background documents and the draft plan of action prepared by the secretariat. The Meeting had been attended by 21 experts, 20 observers and 20 representatives from United Nations bodies and agencies and other international organizations. The Commission noted that the background documents and the draft plan of action had been revised subsequently to reflect the discussions in the Meeting.

356. The Commission noted that the regional action plan was the most important document that would be considered at the Ministerial Conference. It requested the secretariat to take into consideration the views of members and associate members in preparing the plan. It noted that the plan would be most effective if it was concise and focused on practical strategies and actions which were clearly linked to outcomes and designed to accelerate change. Some delegations made specific suggestions for the draft plan. One delegation proposed that the mission statement include a description of the expected milestones to be reached by women in the region by the year 2000; that the plan address causes of the current world economic, social and political crisis and focus on major critical concerns, including indicators for women's participation in decision-making processes; that it give special consideration to the enhancement of the role and participation of rural women; and that it provide guidelines for the promulgation of legislative provisions to ensure meaningful and effective women's participation. Another delegation suggested that the plan should focus

on establishing and strengthening national machineries on the status of women and gender sensitization of the public through education and mass media strategies. Some delegations suggested that the plan should address the growing feminization of poverty; persistent gender inequalities in the sharing of power, access and control over factors of production; women's access to education, employment, health and social services; women's rights as human rights, including legal rights and legal literacy; violence against women at both societal and domestic levels; the impact of structural adjustment policies on women; and discrimination against the girl child.

357. The Commission noted the preparations for the Conference being made at the subregional level in the Pacific and expressed appreciation for the support of the donor system in the Pacific subregion. It was requested that the relevant recommendations to be made at the conference on women in the Pacific subregion, to be convened in Noumea in May 1994, be incorporated in the draft plan of action to be considered at the Ministerial Conference.

358. The Commission was pleased to note that the secretariat, in collaboration with the Government of Indonesia, United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, intergovernmental organizations, NGOs and the media, had undertaken public information activities to generate high-level participation in the Ministerial Conference and to sensitize the population of the ESCAP region to the gender issues to be addressed at that Conference. It noted that the secretariat was preparing a press kit on the Conference. Press releases, brochures and other public information materials on the Conference would be issued by the secretariat for distribution to all concerned government agencies, NGOs, other institutions and the general public in the region.

359. The representative of Indonesia informed the Commission that, in order to undertake the necessary preparations for the Conference, the Government had set up a ministerial-level advisory committee. That committee was responsible for providing guidance and direction to both the Indonesian delegation and the national organizing committee for the administrative preparations for the Conference. The host country agreement between the ESCAP secretariat and the Government of Indonesia had been signed in October 1993.

360. The Commission noted that the ESCAP secretariat would set up an exhibition centre at the Conference for the display of printed and audio-visual materials on the status of women and national programmes relevant to women and development. The Commission noted with satisfaction that the Government of Indonesia had set up a subcommittee to prepare for the exhibition. The secretariat, in cooperation with that subcommittee, had developed a layout of the exhibition space for the display of materials. Delegations were urged to participate in the exhibition.

361. The Commission expressed appreciation of the generous financial support extended by the Governments of Japan and the Netherlands, UNDP and ADB to the preparations for the Conference.

Progress in the implementation of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 1993-2002

362. The Commission had before it document E/ESCAP/945 and Corr.1 on progress in the implementation of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 1993-2002. In endorsing the recommendations contained therein, it commended the secretariat on the approach and activities being pursued in the implementation of the aims and objectives of the Decade.

363. The issues pertaining to the Decade were important for both the developed and developing countries and areas of the region. The Commission reviewed the action under way at the regional and national levels and considered various proposals for further regional cooperation in support of the aims and objectives of the Decade. It noted with satisfaction that increasing emphasis was being accorded throughout the region to the right of people with disabilities to full participation and equality in society, a view transcending the traditional perception of disabled persons as objects of charity.

364. It was noted that, thus far, government leaders at the highest level, representing 25 countries and areas, had signed the Proclamation on the Full Participation and Equality of People with Disabilities in the Asian and Pacific Region. Several delegations informed the Commission that their Governments had joined or intended to join as signatories to the Proclamation.

365. The Commission was informed that contributions to the ESCAP Fund for the Decade had been received from the Governments of Australia, Brunei Darussalam, China, Hong Kong, Republic of Korea, Singapore, Thailand (in collaboration with the Thai-Chinese Association), as well as from the Honda Motor Workers' Union. The Fund currently had a balance of approximately US$ 183,000. The Government of India informed the Commission that it had decided to contribute US$ 50,000 to the Fund, to assist the secretariat in the preparation of studies on disability-related legislation and in the conduct of a workshop on assistive devices. The Government of China reaffirmed its earlier commitment to contribute US$ 50,000 in support of Decade activities (of which US$ 10,000 had already been paid). The Commission expressed the hope that further contributions would be made to the Fund. It encouraged the secretariat to give priority to action- and outcome-oriented projects for the ESCAP Fund rather than to projects with an awareness-raising focus.

366. The Commission was informed that a number of applications to the Fund had been received, that those applications were under review by the secretariat and that disbursements would be initiated shortly. A report on disbursements and the use of the funds by recipients would be submitted to the Commission in due course. It was suggested that, among the purposes for which the Fund could be used, special attention should be given to the support of training activities for personnel working with persons with disabilities.

367. The Commission expressed appreciation of the strengthening of the Asia-Pacific Inter-organizational Task Force on Disability-related Concerns, as called for in the Agenda for Action for the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 1993-2002. It commended the secretariat on its effective work as the secretariat of that Task Force. The expanded membership and enhanced functioning of the Task Force, encompassing members of the United Nations system and NGOs concerned with disability matters in the ESCAP region, were noted. Attention was drawn to the collective leadership and division of responsibilities among Task Force members for promoting the implementation of the Agenda for Action in consonance with the specific areas of expertise of the respective member agencies and organizations. It was suggested that, to enable the Task Force to develop measures that could better address national needs, three or four Governments could, on a rotation basis, be invited to attend the biannual meetings of the Task Force. The Commission further expressed the hope that the Task Force would develop regional guidelines for national action to protect the rights of persons with disabilities and address the pressing issue of poverty faced by disabled persons.

368. Concerning the monitoring of the Decade, the members and associate members were requested to provide the Task Force, through the secretariat, by its next meeting (tentatively scheduled for October 1994), with information on action under way to promote the implementation of the 12 main areas of the Agenda for Action and their views on the types of support required. A draft format for reporting on the progress of the Decade had been submitted to the Task Force. The Commission welcomed the plan to convene in Bangkok, in June 1995, a regional meeting of Governments, Task Force members and other interested parties to review the progress of the Decade.

369. The Commission emphasized the need to integrate disability concerns into mainstream development plans, policies and programmes. The secretariat was thus urged to integrate its Decade activities into its work under the theme of poverty alleviation, with particular reference to such issues as social services delivery, urbanization, rural employment and the environment. Furthermore, the Commission expressed the view that the forthcoming Asian and Pacific Ministerial Conference in Preparation for the World Summit for Social Development, to be held in Manila in October 1994 in preparation for the World Summit for Social Development, to be held in Copenhagen in March 1995, and the Second Asian and Pacific Ministerial Conference on Women in Development, to be held in Jakarta in June 1994 in preparation for the Fourth World Conference on Women: Action for Equality, Development and Peace, to be held in Beijing in September 1995, should focus timely attention on addressing the needs of persons with disabilities.

370. The critical importance of action to promote legislation in support of the full participation and equality of people with disabilities was stressed. Several delegations reported on the legislative and policy measures that were being undertaken in their countries to promote the goals of the Decade, counter discrimination, deinstitutionalize, oversee and coordinate services and promote equal opportunities (including education, training and employment), among other activities on behalf of disabled persons.

371. The Government of China offered to print secretariat documentation on the Decade and organize a regional training course on performing arts by people with disabilities. The Government of India offered to provide, on a consultancy basis, its expertise on technologies for people with disabilities, including those developed for the production of assistive devices. An exchange of information on low-cost assistive devices and diverse management systems in the field of disability was proposed as an additional useful activity in support of regional cooperation.

372. The Commission was informed of the following forthcoming Decade-related activities: Campaign '94 to promote the Decade, which would be held in Manila in July 1994; and the Sixth Far East and South Pacific Games for Disabled Persons, to be held in Beijing in September 1994. All members and associate members were invited to participate actively in those events in support of the aims and objectives of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons.

Review and refinement of the Jakarta Plan of Action on Human Resources Development in the ESCAP Region

373. In reviewing the implementation of the Jakarta Plan of Action on Human Resources Development in the ESCAP Region, which had been adopted by the Commission at its forty-fourth session in 1988 through resolution 274 (XLIV), the Commission stressed that human resources development continued to be an issue deserving of the highest priority attention in Asia and the Pacific at the national, subregional and regional levels.

374. The rapidly changing conditions in the region required careful reconsideration of the manner in which human resources might be further developed in the most

effective way. In that regard, it was recalled that an expert group meeting had been convened by the secretariat in January 1994 to re-examine the Jakarta Plan of Action, as requested in Commission resolution 48/6 of 23 April 1992 on regional cooperation in the implementation of the Jakarta Plan of Action on Human Resources Development in the ESCAP Region. The meeting had assisted the secretariat in refining and updating the Plan to make it applicable to the changing circumstances in the region.

375. The Commission noted that the refined and updated Jakarta Plan of Action, as contained in document E/ESCAP/946, presented two sets of proposals. The first set comprised 30 proposals in promotion of the three components of human resources development: (a) investment in human resources to enhance productive capabilities; (b) utilization of those human resources to produce increased output; and (c) participation of the human beings who embodied those human resources in the benefits arising out of that increased output through an enhanced quality of life. The second set comprised 32 proposals for the effective management of human resources development in five key areas: (a) policy, planning and programming; (b) institutional strengthening; (c) research and information; (d) monitoring and evaluation; and (e) regional support.

376. The refined and updated Jakarta Plan of Action, as contained in document E/ESCAP/946, received the strong approval and full endorsement of the Commission. It adopted resolution 50/7 on the update of the Jakarta Plan of Action on Human Resources Development in the ESCAP Region. Appreciation was expressed of the valuable guidance that had been provided by the expert group meeting and the excellent work of the secretariat in revising the Plan to bring it into full conformity with the changing circumstances in the region.

377. The Commission stated that, in view of the social and economic changes that had occurred in the ESCAP region in the six years since the adoption of the Jakarta Plan of Action, the refinement and updating of the Plan was a timely and necessary exercise. It expressed satisfaction with the revised Plan relative to the previous version. The changes which had been introduced in the refined and updated version rendered the Plan more concise and relevant to the changing conditions and needs of the region, especially with regard to the alleviation of poverty, full participation of all sectors in development and advancement of the status of women. While the original Plan had, in the view of one delegation, provided a valuable regional vision of human resources development, the revised document presented a work plan for direct implementation.

378. The view was expressed that the revised analytical framework of the Plan provided a comprehensive and flexible description of the continuing and iterative process of human resources development. Several delegations voiced particular appreciation of the clarity and coherence of the revised elaboration of the core concept of human resources development.

379. The Commission stated its approval of the specific focus of the refined and updated Plan as reflected in the following priority concerns: targeting the poor, enhancing competitiveness, developing women's human resources, harnessing science and technology, and promoting the role of government and other enabler groups. In endorsing that focus, representatives of several least developed countries stated that the development of human resources was a prerequisite for the alleviation of poverty in their countries and called upon the secretariat's particular support for that urgent task. The Commission expressed appreciation of the secretariat's activities to enhance human resources development among the poor and other disadvantaged groups through its projects to promote functional literacy and responsible citizenship among youth.

380. It was felt that the revised and updated Plan brought into sharper focus the role of government with respect to that of other enabler groups, such as business enterprises and NGOs, with particular reference to the decentralization of political authority which had accompanied the process of economic liberalization in the region. The Commission was informed of the keen interest of many Governments in promoting the participation of the private sector and NGOs in human resources development and of the activities being undertaken by the secretariat in support of that effort.

381. The Commission called for the further strengthening of inter-agency cooperation in respect of human resources development. In that regard, it proposed dovetailing of programmes such as the UNESCO Asia-Pacific Programme of Education for All (APPEAL) and the International Project on Technical and Vocational Education (UNEVOC) with the refined and updated Jakarta Plan of Action. It was also suggested that coordination should be enhanced between ILO/ARTEP (Asian Regional Team for Employment Promotion) and ESCAP human resources development activities in the promotion of productive employment and labour skills training. The Government of Australia requested the secretariat to coordinate with the Human Resources Development Working Group of Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC).

382. Attention was drawn to item 60 of the Framework for Action of the refined and updated Jakarta Plan of Action, which called upon the secretariat, in collaboration with UNESCO, to explore effective measures for promoting distance education. The Commission suggested modalities for possible action, such as intraregional exchanges of information through a network of open universities and the possible establishment of a regional open university. The representative of UNESCO informed the Commission of three projects that were currently being planned for

implementation, the main objective of which was to pilot the innovative use of grass-roots literacy personnel in remote and inaccessible areas, and assured it of his organization's collaboration with ESCAP in the promotion of distance education in the region.

Follow-up of the Bali Declaration on Population and Sustainable Development and implementation strategies: regional preparations for the International Conference on Population and Development

383. The Commission had before it document E/ESCAP/947. It reviewed the regional preparations for the International Conference on Population and Development to be held in 1994, including the deliberations of the Senior Officials Meeting on Targets and Goals of the Bali Declaration on Population and Sustainable Development: Implementation Strategy, which had been held in Bangkok in January 1994 in pursuance of Commission resolution 49/4 of 29 April 1993 on population and sustainable development: goals and strategies into the twenty-first century. In that connection, the Commission recalled its resolution 48/4 of 23 April 1992 on the Fourth Asian and Pacific Population Conference, 1992, in which it had requested the Executive Secretary to present the findings and recommendations of the Conference as the main Asian and Pacific regional input into the International Conference on Population and Development.

384. In endorsing the recommendations of the Senior Officials Meeting, the Commission noted that political commitment at the national, regional and community levels would be an important strategy for attaining the goals and targets of the Bali Declaration. In particular, in the national and community interest, strong and continuing political support for family planning programmes was needed, for example, in popularizing the concept of a planned family and in improving the status of women.

385. With reference to the attainment of the goals of reducing the infant mortality rate to 40 per thousand live births or lower, and of cutting maternal mortality by at least half by 2010, the Commission noted that special attention to primary health care and the immunization of children would be the essential elements of the strategy. It noted the importance of improvement in the quality, accessibility and affordability of health services and easy access to relevant and correct information for the target groups in family planning programmes.

386. With regard to the target replacement level of fertility, a total fertility rate of around 2.2 children per woman by 2010, the Commission noted that maternal and child health services needed to be integrated with family planning services so that family planning programmes could provide an effective choice of methods and improved quality of service. It further noted that family planning and maternal and child health services through various integrated public health institutions in rural and urban areas, as well as the strengthening of health infrastructure in both outreach and quality, would greatly facilitate the attainment of the fertility goals.

387. The Commission recognized that integration of population factors into the socio-economic development process was crucial and that the alleviation of poverty was fundamental to the achievement of sustainable development. It noted that the ultimate objectives of sustainable development were to achieve balance between the needs and aspirations of people, and resources and the environment, as well as to enhance the quality of life. There was urgent need to bring into balance population dynamics, socio-economic development, the use of natural resources and the quality of the environment, and also to develop long-term strategies for addressing that issue.

388. The Commission emphasized the need for comprehensive, up-to-date, reliable data and their timely dissemination for programme planning and monitoring of key aspects of population, development and resource linkages. It called for strengthening the data and knowledge bases on the linkages. Human resources development on those issues, as well as promotion of the training of researchers and programme managers, would greatly facilitate the self-reliance of countries in those areas.

389. In recognizing that women were an important part of population and made a significant contribution to national development, the Commission observed that the quality of life of women should be improved through the enhancement of their education, health and employment opportunities. The programme to meet population goals should, therefore, include strong emphasis on improving the status and role of women as equal partners in the development process. The importance of family support services was also noted.

390. The Commission recognized that families were important agents of sustained economic growth and development at community and societal levels. As primary agents of socialization, families played an important role in intergenerational transmission of social values and, therefore, were a potential agent of social change. The Commission emphasized the importance of further developing and strengthening the role of the family in the context of population and development.

391. The Commission recognized that NGOs and the private sector could play an invaluable role in the planning and implementation of programmes related to population and development. Their active participation and involvement in collaboration and coordination with governmental agencies could lead to the success of population programmes. The Commission also noted the important role played by NGOs in national and subregional preparations for the International Conference on Population and Development.

392. Many delegations expressed concern about the need for adequate resources, including financial, technical and human resources, to implement population policies and programmes. Countries should rationalize the allocation of resources in line with priorities; donor agencies, both bilateral and multilateral, should continue and enhance their support to the population programmes of developing countries, in particular the least developed countries in the region.

393. The Commission, in confirming its commitment to the spirit of the Bali Declaration, commended the secretariat on its active and constructive role. It urged the secretariat to continue to play an advocacy role in the planning and implementation of population programmes in the ESCAP region. It requested the secretariat to disseminate information through regular publications and other appropriate means on implementation of the Bali Declaration and the challenges faced by countries in the region.

394. The Commission noted the outcomes of several subregional meetings and conferences as preparatory initiatives for the global Conference, among which were the following: the Ministerial Meeting on Population and Sustainable Development in the Pacific, convened by the secretariat of the South Pacific Forum and hosted by the Government of Vanuatu at Port Vila in September 1993; the SAARC Ministerial Conference on Women and Family Health, convened in Kathmandu in November 1993; and the Fourth Conference of the Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development, held in Kuala Lumpur in October 1993. The Commission also noted important meetings organized in the region, such as the Ministerial Meeting on Population of the Non-Aligned Movement, held in Bali, Indonesia in November 1993, and the Regional Conference on Family Planning, held in Tehran in September 1993. The results of those meetings should also provide valuable inputs into the International Conference on Population and Development.

Transport and communications

Report of the Committee on Transport and Communications, first session

395. The Commission had before it documents E/ESCAP/948 and Corr.1 and E/ESCAP/949. It endorsed the recommendations contained in the report of the Committee on Transport and Communications on its first session and urged their early implementation.

396. The Commission reiterated the importance of infrastructure in general, and land and water-borne transport and communications in particular, for the economic and social development of the countries of the region. It expressed concern, however, that in many countries transport and communications systems were not fully developed or were in a poor state and in need of rehabilitation and modernization. As a result, transport and communications facilities continued to represent a bottleneck in the development process. In that connection, the Commission commended the secretariat on its very useful study on the theme topic "Infrastructure development as key to economic growth and regional economic cooperation". It expressed appreciation to the secretariat for the work being undertaken and the valuable and continued support for the region's transport, communications and tourism sectors.

Phase II (1992-1996) of the Transport and Communications Decade for Asia and the Pacific

397. The Commission reiterated its support for the regional action programme for phase II (1992-1996) of the Transport and Communications Decade for Asia and the Pacific, and recorded its concern that more than 40 per cent of the projects in the programme still required financing. In that context, the Commission welcomed General Assembly resolution 48/177 of 21 December 1993 concerning resource mobilization for implementation of the programme, in which it encouraged more active participation by UNDP, bilateral donors and Governments in a position to do so to provide support for the implementation of the programme.

398. The Commission noted with appreciation the important role being played by ESCAP as the lead agency in the execution of the programme. It thanked UNDP and other bilateral donors, including the Governments of Australia, China, France, Germany, Japan, the Netherlands, the Republic of Korea and the Russian Federation, for the financial and other support they had provided for the programme. It particularly welcomed the initiative taken by UNDP to mobilize additional resources for the programme. It strongly urged donor countries and agencies to take further steps to mobilize resources in pursuance of General Assembly resolution 48/177.

Asian land transport infrastructure development

399. The Commission reiterated its support for the Asian land transport infrastructure development (ALTID) project, comprising the Asian Highway, Trans-Asian Railway and facilitation measures, as a priority item under phase II of the Decade. It expressed satisfaction with the progress made under the project and urged countries to give priority attention to its implementation.

400. The Commission endorsed the ALTID implementation strategy aiming at maximum utilization of land transport infrastructure and optimum utilization of available resources, and comprising the following: facilitation of land transport and border-crossings; emphasis on implementation at the subregional level; a step-by-step approach involving studies of corridors and other aspects of land transport; and cooperation with other international organizations concerned. It also

endorsed the action plan for 1994-1995 and the revised subregional groupings.

401. The Commission observed that there was need to enhance activities in railway restructuring and modernization as part of the ALTID project. It noted the interest of Tajikistan and Uzbekistan in being included in the project. It was also noted that the transport system of the Russian Federation could provide reliable linkages to the Trans-Asian Railway and the Asian Highway network along the northern corridor, and ensure stable support for the movement of cargo and passengers between Europe and Asia, as the Russian Federation had many years of experience in solving legal, customs and technical problems in international border-crossing.

402. With regard to the facilitation of land transport in Asia, the Commission reiterated the importance of the implementation of its resolution 48/11 of 23 April 1992 on road and rail transport modes in relation to facilitation measures. It was proposed that regional seminars should be organized to explain and discuss the implications of various conventions and highlight the benefits of acceding to them.

Rural and urban transport

403. The Commission observed that in most countries of the region large segments of the population lived in poverty in rural areas. The provision of easy access to schools, hospitals, markets and employment opportunities would make a considerable contribution to the alleviation of poverty in those areas. It urged the secretariat to address the issue of rural transport and infrastructure development by, *inter alia*, assisting member Governments in the formulation and implementation of appropriate policies to that end.

404. The Commission held the view that sufficient international support had not been forthcoming for the development of the urban transport sector. It observed that with the increasing rate of urbanization, efficient urban transport would not only assist in solving direct transport problems in congested urban centres but also reduce pressure on those areas by encouraging distributed urban development, since travel time from outlying areas would be appreciably reduced.

Multimodal transport

405. The Commission stressed the importance of multimodal transport and expressed appreciation of the initiative taken by the secretariat in organizing national training workshops and subregional seminars on the subject, which the members and associate members had found very useful. It emphasized the need to develop regional and subregional cooperation in the development of efficient multimodal transport across the region and beyond. It was noted with interest that in April 1993 India had enacted the Multimodal Transportation of Goods Ordinance.

Maritime Policy Planning Model

406. The Commission supported the activities undertaken by the secretariat with respect to the Maritime Policy Planning Model (MPPM). It noted that the Model provided guidance for future investment programmes; in particular it provided tools for exploring ways and means to improve resource mobilization and cooperation in the maritime sector. It recognized the need for further study, using MPPM to consider multiple scenarios for development policies for ports and harbours, as well as management strategies for shipping companies.

407. The Commission recognized the important role played by coastal and inter-island shipping in social and economic development. It suggested that the secretariat could assist countries in updating their domestic and coastal shipping policies.

Commercialization in transport and communications

408. The Commission noted with appreciation the secretariat's current initiative on commercialization and private sector participation in ports, and port-related activities, dredging and inland waterways. It reiterated the importance of extending the work to cover other modes of transport, including highways and railways. It was proposed that a special study be undertaken on the possibility of developing a model framework or guidelines for privatization for use by all interested countries.

409. In supporting the activities of the secretariat in the field of privatization, the Commission recommended that ESCAP and ILO should cooperate closely in the organization of seminars and workshops at the regional and country levels on the potential impact of privatization and rationalization on employment opportunities.

410. The Commission noted with interest the various initiatives being taken by members and associate members for the commercialization of transport and communications activities. In the port sector, India, with the assistance of the World Bank, had developed a model tender document and evaluation paper for inviting bids for the privatization of berths and terminals. The Commission was informed that in an attempt to draw the attention of the private sector to various opportunities, India had prepared brochures on a number of seaport and road projects in which private sector participation was being encouraged. Malaysia reported on its extensive experience in privatization and private sector involvement in infrastructure development.

Transport management information systems

411. The Commission reiterated the views of the Committee on Transport and Communications that information-building on transport and related matters in the ESCAP region was very important. A number of

delegations informed the Commission that they were preparing urban transport policies which included the establishment of databases on transport in metropolitan cities. The Commission urged the secretariat to undertake the task of preparing standard formats to assist member countries in the collection and exchange of information on various modes of transport.

Tourism

412. The Commission recognized the increasing importance of tourism; a number of delegations stated that by the turn of the century tourism was likely to become one of the largest industries in their countries in terms of investment, employment and gross foreign exchange earnings.

413. It endorsed the report of the Committee on Transport and Communications, and the work of the secretariat relating to tourism development with emphasis on an integrated, environmentally sound approach.

414. The Commission supported the tourism activities of ESCAP, which were relevant to the major development concerns of the region. It recommended that tourism should be accorded priority and urged the secretariat to intensify its efforts and take up innovative activities in that sector.

415. With the rapid growth in tourism, there was a pressing need to develop human resources for assessing the economic, sociocultural and environmental impact of tourism, and tourism marketing and investment. The Commission noted with satisfaction the success of the Seminar on Investment and Economic Cooperation in the Tourism Sector in Pacific Island Countries, held in Tokyo in October 1993.

Experience-sharing and request for assistance

416. A number of delegations expressed willingness to share experience with other countries of the ESCAP region in various areas of transport and communications. China expressed willingness to share experience in the maintenance of railway rolling stock, shipping economics, dredging and inland water transport planning and development. India offered to share experience with model tender documents and evaluation, which it had gained through the assistance of the World Bank in connection with the invitation of bids for the privatization of berths, terminals and land and experience in the enactment of the Multimodal Transportation of Goods Ordinance of 1993. India also offered training in its national institutions in the fields of ports, shipping, highway engineering, civil aviation, and tourism. Malaysia offered to share its extensive experience in privatization and private sector involvement in infrastructure development. The Commission urged the secretariat to take advantage of those offers for the benefit of member countries, through appropriate action.

417. The Commission noted with appreciation that, as part of the Decade programme, the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), with funding support from UNDP, was convening a series of country-level workshops in the region on the new ICAO communications, navigation and surveillance/air traffic management (CNS/ATM) system, which would be followed by three subregional workshops with emphasis on cost-benefit analysis and implementation planning.

418. The Commission noted with interest the specific requests made to the secretariat to undertake activities in various areas. In the context of cargo transport and tourism along the Mekong River, Thailand had requested assistance in conducting environmental impact assessment and a study on the facilitation and harmonization of rules and regulations concerning cross-border transport. China had suggested that seminars should be organized on the restructuring of railways and the environmental impact of dredging. India had requested that a seminar be held to review liberalization policies for domestic shipping operators. Indonesia had requested that a seminar be held on the benefit of privatization and private sector involvement in infrastructure development.

Least developed, land-locked and island developing countries

Report of the Special Body on Pacific Island Developing Countries, second session

419. The Commission had before it the report of the Special Body on Pacific Island Developing Countries on its second session (E/ESCAP/950) and endorsed the views contained in it. In the course of discussions on the document, it took note of a variety of external and domestic constraints on development faced by Pacific island countries, including their vulnerability to natural disasters, high rates of population growth, inadequate marketing opportunities, the recent global economic recession, and volatile trade earnings. It was gratified that, despite those difficulties, a few Pacific island countries had managed to attain reasonable economic performance in the early 1990s. However, economic growth within the Pacific island subregion had remained uneven; in several island countries there had been practically no growth. Unemployment continued to be a problem even in economies with better economic growth.

420. Structural adjustments and policy reforms were an important factor behind the positive economic developments in several Pacific island countries. The Commission emphasized the crucial importance to those countries of foreign direct investment, the promotion of private sector initiatives and enterprises, and closer linkages in trade and investment with the dynamic Asian economies. Foreign assistance would remain

indispensable to the development process in Pacific island countries. At the same time, however, concerted efforts were needed to mobilize domestic resources, through the widening and deepening of the current tax base, and to improve domestic absorption of external and internal resources. Human resources development and institutional capacity-building were regarded as among the essential requirements in the development process of the island countries. Given the importance of commodity exports and the need for export diversification, it was suggested that those countries could benefit from a link-up with the computerized programme package that was currently being developed by UNCTAD to provide analytical information on commodities.

421. Turning to ESCAP activities in the Pacific, the Commission was encouraged by the efforts made by the Executive Secretary to strengthen the ESCAP Pacific Operations Centre (ESCAP/POC), as envisaged in Commission resolution 48/9 of 23 April 1992 on strengthening ESCAP assistance to the Pacific island countries. It conveyed appreciation to the several donor countries which had assisted in such efforts through the provision of resource personnel. The Executive Secretary was urged to continue his efforts to expand the presence of the Commission in the Pacific, including by increasing ESCAP/POC advisers to a total of 10 as soon as possible.

422. The increase in the representation of Pacific island countries in activities implemented by the secretariat and the resumption of the ESCAP Training and Orientation Programme in 1994 were warmly welcomed by the Commission. However, it was stressed that the quality of technical assistance was also important. It was suggested that the targets and objectives of such activities should be clearly specified in a medium-term perspective. That was necessary to enable a better evaluation by the Commission of the quality and quantity of services delivered by the secretariat.

423. The Commission urged wider awareness of Pacific island country issues and concerns in ESCAP meetings and the secretariat, in the spirit of resolution 48/9. In support of that objective, the Commission requested that: (a) a summary of discussions of the informal meeting between Pacific island countries and the Executive Secretary be prepared and circulated to Commission members in advance of the discussion on the agenda item relating to the Pacific island countries; and (b) increased efforts should be made by the Executive Secretary to raise the number of Pacific island nationals on the secretariat Professional staff, and that progress in such recruitment be reported to the Commission annually.

424. The representative of the United States of America informed the Commission that his Government had no objection to ESCAP or other United Nations agencies, such as UNDP, providing technical assistance to United States trust territories in the Pacific islands, provided that such assistance was coordinated with the United States Departments of State and Interior. He also expressed support for improved coordination of assistance to Pacific island countries to avoid undesirable overlap.

425. Several developing countries outlined in some detail the many substantive areas in which technical assistance was available for Pacific island countries under their schemes for ECDC-TCDC. The Commission expressed appreciation of the offer of those countries to maintain or increase such technical assistance in the future. Several Pacific island countries welcomed the study-tour-cum-matching exercise to be implemented by China in 1994, and the proposed mission on technical assistance programming in the Pacific to be undertaken by Thailand, also in 1994, as well as the offer of the Government of India to utilize its training institutions, especially in the area of marine resources.

426. The Commission reaffirmed its deep appreciation to the many donors to the Pacific Trust Fund. Such generous support had enabled several Pacific island countries to be present at the sessions of the Commission. Many delegations announced their continuing or increased support to the Fund during 1994. In addition, the Commission noted with appreciation the assistance provided by the Government of Japan in financing the participation of selected Pacific island countries at the fiftieth session of the Commission. The supplementary funding from Australia had also enabled those countries to attend the second session of the Special Body on Pacific Island Developing Countries.

427. Concern was expressed regarding the need for financing arrangements to facilitate the attendance of Pacific island countries in sufficient numbers at the third session of the Special Body to be convened before the fifty-first session of the Commission, and about the expense of travel by representatives of Pacific island country Governments to Bangkok for the Special Body meetings.

428. It was suggested that a theme topic for the third session of the Special Body might relate to the possibilities of increasing the flows of investment and development finance to the Pacific, including exploration of ways of ensuring durable linkages between Pacific and Asian economies. It was stressed that strong consideration should be given to holding a meeting of the Special Body in the Pacific, which would enable a greater number of Pacific island developing countries to be represented. It would also enhance the understanding of the special needs of those countries by both the ESCAP secretariat and non-Pacific island ESCAP members.

Implementation of Commission resolution 49/8 on strengthening assistance to least developed countries

429. The Commission had before it document E/ESCAP/951 and Corr.1 on the implementation of Commission resolution 49/8 on strengthening assistance to least developed countries.

430. Despite numerous measures and reform programmes adopted by the least developed countries, there had been no significant acceleration of growth in many of those countries, and that was a cause of continuing concern. The Commission encouraged the least developed countries to continue to pursue and strengthen growth-promoting measures; it observed that official development assistance (ODA), as envisaged under the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s, was not forthcoming. It was mentioned that many donor countries had failed to fulfil the target of 0.15 per cent of their gross national product (GNP) as ODA to the least developed countries. The Commission emphasized the need for the international community to strengthen its efforts to support the development efforts of the least developed countries to revitalize their growth process.

431. The Commission welcomed the establishment of the Special Body on Least Developed and Land-locked Developing Countries. It provided a useful forum for reviewing the economic and social developments in the least developed countries of the region within the framework of the Programme of Action and for exchanging views and highlighting their special needs and problems. It also played an important role in evolving cooperative measures to address those problems.

432. The Commission noted with satisfaction the activities undertaken to strengthen secretariat programmes to meet the priority needs of the least developed countries. It expressed appreciation of the assistance received by those countries through activities conducted for the developing countries in general, and requested that increased attention be devoted to activities specially designed for the least developed countries as well as to the provision of advisory services to those countries. The Commission noted that some Pacific island least developed countries had been able to take advantage of advisory services provided by the secretariat.

433. Although attempts had been made to protect and promote the special concerns of the least developed countries in the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations, the results had fallen far short of expectations. The secretariat should therefore formulate programmes to assist those countries in implementing the decisions of the Uruguay Round. The analysis of implications of the results of the Uruguay Round for the least developed countries should be given priority in the activities of the secretariat.

434. The Commission stressed the importance of meeting the environmental concerns of the least developed countries. The secretariat was urged to provide training and advisory services on environmental impact analysis and the integration of environmental considerations into the development process of those countries.

435. The Commission noted with appreciation the keen interest shown by many developing countries in extending assistance to the least developed countries under ECDC-TCDC arrangements. It supported an enhanced role for the secretariat in coordinating and facilitating such assistance and urged the least developed countries to take fuller advantage of the benefits that could be derived from ECDC-TCDC activities.

436. The Commission noted with interest the activities currently under way under the project relating to lessons that least developed countries could learn from the early development experience of the newly industrializing economies. The secretariat was urged to look more closely at the issues relating to effective implementation of macroeconomic and sectoral policies, the strengthening of institutions, private sector participation, public administration and governance in the development process. In addition, the secretariat was urged to look more closely at the issues of environmental planning and their impact on development, as well as women's participation in development.

437. The Commission emphasized the importance of the secretariat's activities proposed for the preparation of the mid-term review at the regional level of progress in the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s. The review should concentrate on presenting the actual development experience of the least developed countries in the Asian and Pacific region, analyse their special problems and the effectiveness of measures adopted at the national and international levels to solve them, and recommend policies and measures for more effective implementation of the Programme of Action. A regional paper highlighting the perspectives on the main issues facing the least developed countries of the ESCAP region, which would be reviewed at the proposed meeting of the senior officials of the least developed countries, would make a valuable contribution to the global mid-term review to be held in 1995.

438. The least developed countries pledged their full support and cooperation to ensure the success of the mid-term review at the regional level for presentation to the Special Body at its session early in 1995.

439. The Commission welcomed the offers of cooperation from other United Nations organizations and agencies in the preparations for the mid-term review in the Asian and Pacific region, especially UNCTAD, which was the coordinating body for the follow-up and review of the Programme of Action.

440. The Commission requested all members and associate members to participate actively in and extend generous assistance for the preparations for the mid-term review.

ESCAP regional institutions and selected regional projects

Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology

441. The Commission had before it document E/ESCAP/952, containing the report of the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology (APCTT).

442. It expressed appreciation of the activities of the Centre, particularly its training programmes, workshops, exhibitions and preparation of publications, and of its emphasis on the promotion of environmentally friendly technologies, which were of great benefit to the countries of the region. The work carried out by the Centre in the reporting period was all the more commendable in view of the constraints faced while relocating the Centre from Bangalore to New Delhi.

443. The Commission noted with satisfaction that the Centre was now fully functional at its new premises, which had been furnished and equipped adequately with support provided by the Government of India. It expressed deep appreciation to the Government for that support.

444. It expressed satisfaction at the signing of the host country agreement for the Centre between the United Nations and the Government of India. It hoped that would enable the members and associate members to take full advantage of the Centre's strengthened capacity.

445. The Commission noted with appreciation the timely financial support provided by the Government of Germany and believed that it heralded a new era of service in the field of technology transfer. The new director, whose appointment had been made possible owing to the financial support from Germany, had taken charge of the Centre. The Commission looked forward to its growth under his leadership, and expressed the hope that the Centre would meet the expectations of the countries of the region.

446. The Commission noted with appreciation the suggestions made by the Governing Board of the Centre at its eighth session and the special measures recommended by it for the Centre's viability, especially the commercialization of its services. It urged member countries to support wholeheartedly the idea of establishing an endowment fund to reach the desirable level of institutional support. It endorsed the recommendations made by the Governing Board at its eighth session.

447. The Commission observed that the project on the Mechanism for Exchange of Technology Information (METI) had considerable impact in many countries of the region. It expressed satisfaction at the sharper focus under the project on environmentally friendly technologies and their use by small and medium enterprises. It urged UNDP to consider funding a second phase of the project.

448. The Commission noted the progress made in the implementation of the project on transfer of small-scale productive technologies and encouragement of entrepreneurship among rural women. It noted with satisfaction that the project had created considerable awareness and that through national workshops it had opened up opportunities for rural women in the countries of the region. It expressed gratitude to the Government of the Netherlands for financing the project. It noted that a second phase of the project had been envisaged and requested the donor countries to consider funding that phase so that the results of the first phase could be consolidated.

449. The Commission observed that the publications of the Centre were making a valuable contribution to meeting the information requirements of the members and associate members. It appreciated, in particular, *Asia-Pacific Tech Monitor*, focusing on a special theme in each issue, as well as the Value Added Technology Information Service (VATIS), providing specialized information in areas such as biotechnology, food-processing, non-conventional energy sources, ozone layer protection and waste technology. The Commission commended the Centre on bringing out special and timely publications on the basis of the assessed requirements of the members and associate members.

450. The Commission welcomed the cooperation being extended to small and medium enterprises by the Centre. It noted with interest the special measures being taken to assist those enterprises in upgrading their technologies and encouraged the Centre to set up databanks for that purpose.

451. The Commission appreciated the Centre's achievements in the area of technology transfer for the economic and social development of the region, particularly in the area of clean technologies. It recognized the willingness of members and associate members to share information on clean technologies for their transfer to other countries. It was also informed of an agreement signed by APCTT with the Russian House for International Scientific and Technological Cooperation for close cooperation in the field of technology transfer.

452. The Commission expressed satisfaction with the exhibition-cum-seminar on the transfer of environmentally friendly technologies arranged by the Centre in pursuance of a decision taken at its forty-ninth session. It appreciated the valuable contribution the Centre was making for the transfer of technologies in the fields of waste management, energy conservation and environmentally friendly technologies.

453. The Commission noted with interest the suggestion that the Centre should establish contact with the private sector to enhance its effectiveness in the field of technology transfer. It appreciated the offer of the Government of India to cooperate with APCTT in organizing regional workshops on solar electricity and rural telecommunications.

454. It noted with satisfaction that the members and associate members had benefited from many of the programmes of the Centre. Several countries and donor agencies reiterated their commitment to the support of productive programmes that would benefit the members and associate members.

455. The Commission noted with interest suggestions contained in the report of the Committee for Regional Economic Cooperation and the important role to be played by APCTT in programmes involving technology transfer. It expressed appreciation of the Centre's offer to play an effective role in regional economic cooperation.

456. The Commission was informed of the importance attached to technology transfer for the development of rural areas. It urged the donor countries to consider favourably the project proposals of the Centre aimed at meeting the special technological requirements of the rural areas. It noted with appreciation the offer of member countries to share their experience for mutual advantage.

457. The Commission noted the request of the Government of India that the planned ESCAP project on consultancy development be implemented. It also noted the need for ESCAP to take urgent action to implement the project, with increased funding provided by the Government of India, if required.

458. The Commission expressed appreciation of the close cooperation between APCTT and UNIDO; that organization had been using APCTT increasingly as its executing arm in activities on technology information exchange and other programmes relating to regional economic cooperation. It also expressed appreciation of the provision by UNIDO of associate experts to the Centre to strengthen its technical capacity.

459. The Commission expressed appreciation to UNDP for its continued support for the programmes of the Centre. It noted, in particular, that UNDP was considering approval of the second phase of the METI project to promote environmentally friendly technologies for small and medium enterprises, and welcomed the fact that UNDP was considering having APCTT, with its increased capacity, implement some of the components of programmes and activities funded by UNDP.

Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific

460. The Commission had before it documents E/ESCAP/953 and Add.1. It endorsed the programme of activities of SIAP for 1994 as outlined in the document. It noted that phase VI of the project was due to end in March 1995 and recognized the need to provide the Institute with a durable institutional framework.

461. It noted the services provided by SIAP since its establishment in 1970 through the training of over 5,200 official statisticians from the countries of the region. It recognized that statistical capability had to be improved continuously through training and that statistics were needed to resolve many of the emerging policy issues in the region. It urged the Institute to expand training activities to respond to that demand. In particular, statisticians should be trained to provide data for the estimation of human development indicators. Statistical support should be provided to programmes targeted at poverty alleviation and, in particular, the measurement of the population living below the poverty line, the provision of food security and gender-based planning; the Commission noted the initiatives the Institute had taken in that direction. It urged the Institute to provide training in environmental and energy statistics.

462. The Commission expressed appreciation of the expansion of training in Tokyo as well as the increase in the number of country courses, and urged the Institute to maintain that momentum. It agreed with the initiatives taken by the Institute to conduct subregional courses and workshops on subjects of particular interest to the countries, and requested it to continue that programme.

463. The Commission noted the importance of providing training in database management and the use of statistical software. It felt that training of statisticians needed to be expanded in the countries and urged the Institute to target some of its courses to the training of trainers. It requested the Institute to continue its programme of producing training materials, manuals and audio-visual materials to support and develop national training capability.

464. There was need to develop the capability of national statistical offices in the region in the field of sample surveys. The Commission urged the Institute to provide training particularly in sample design and the management of survey operations. It emphasized the importance of analysing, interpreting and disseminating data collected in censuses and surveys; it commended the Institute on the courses and workshops it had initiated on those subjects and urged it to expand that programme. The Commission noted the need for continuous follow-up studies to assess the utilization of the training upon the return of the participants.

465. The Commission expressed appreciation of the significant increase in the number of country courses and subregional workshops conducted with UNDP support and urged the Institute to expand that programme, since it was cost-effective and responded well to the specific needs and requirements of each country.

466. The Commission noted the overwhelming support for making SIAP a subsidiary body of ESCAP. It noted the strong institutional and operational links that the Institute had during the past 24 years with the various bodies of the Commission, and with its members and associate members, with the result that the Institute operated in practice similarly to a subsidiary body of ESCAP; it therefore recommended that SIAP should acquire the legal status of one of the Commission's subsidiary bodies. In that connection, the Commission recognized the need to draw up a host country agreement between the host country, Japan, and ESCAP. A draft statute for SIAP would be placed before the Committee on Statistics for review and a resolution on the statute should be placed before the Commission at its fifty-first session in 1995. The Commission adopted resolution 50/5 on the status of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific.

467. The Commission expressed gratitude for the support in cash and in kind provided to the Institute by members and associate members. Given the urgent need to expand the Institute's programmes, the Commission urged member countries already contributing to the Institute to increase their support, while requesting other countries which had benefited from its programmes to make contributions to it.

468. The Commission expressed gratitude to the host country, Japan, for the support it was giving to the Institute through financial and in-kind contributions and the award of fellowships for training. It also expressed gratitude to UNDP for the valuable assistance it had extended to the Institute since its establishment in 1970 and the support given during the sixth phase for the development of human development indicators. The Commission also expressed appreciation to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland for the continuing provision of short-term experts on a non-reimbursable loan basis, and to various international organizations for their cooperation and assistance in the various training programmes of the Institute.

Regional Coordination Centre for Research and Development of Coarse Grains, Pulses, Roots and Tuber Crops in the Humid Tropics of Asia and the Pacific

469. The Commission had before it the report on the CGPRT Centre (E/ESCAP/954 and Corr.1), covering the implementation of the Centre's programme, management, staffing and financial status in 1993. It expressed satisfaction with the progress and achievements of the Centre's activities.

470. The Commission reaffirmed the importance of CGPRT crops and agriculture in the economic and social development of the region. Those crops were grown predominantly by small farmers in upland or rainfed conditions. Their development was the basis for food security, poverty alleviation and equitable development of society. With economic growth and the subsequent changes in food consumption, producers as well as consumers could seize opportunities to increase their income from the expanded and emerging markets for CGPRT crops.

471. The Commission commended the Centre on its achievements in 1993 in generating and disseminating information and its recommendations for the use and benefit of the Centre's partners in carrying out activities relating to research and development, human resources development and information services. It noted that the Centre's programme had been structured in line with the direction indicated by the Strategic Plan for the Centre and its five themes. Moreover, it had found a niche for itself in the area of the socio-economics of CGPRT crops in the region. It welcomed the fact that the Centre had worked in close cooperation with international, regional and national agricultural research and development institutes and organizations such as FAO, the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-arid Tropics (ICRISAT), the International Potato Centre (CIP), the International Centre for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT), and the International Cooperation Centre of Agricultural Research for Development (CIRAD).

472. With regard to the achievements of the research and development activities of the CGPRT Centre in 1993, the Commission was informed that it had completed one research project and had been engaged in two additional ones that addressed issues of rural employment generation, the role of women, and agricultural diversification in the context of CGPRT crops and agriculture. Some delegations expressed interest in initiating research and collaborating with the Centre in such areas as market development and export strategy for CGPRT products, food legume development, and post-harvest technology.

473. Regarding the human resources development programme, a seminar, a regional workshop, a training and study tour, and an in-country training course had been held, covering specific subjects, in which a total of 57 experts from 12 countries had participated. Many delegations stressed the importance of human resources development in the areas of socio-economics and policy planning capacity with regard to CGPRT crop development.

474. The Commission was further informed about the information services, including five publications, of the Centre. It commended the progress in the establishment of statistical databases on CGPRT crops, which had led to the completion of databases for six countries; those were widely used for research, policy planning and other purposes by a great number of people.

475. The Commission was informed of the staffing situation of the Centre. It noted with satisfaction the recent reinforcement of the Centre's Professional staff, specifically that five additional experts had taken up their functions since the beginning of 1994. It expressed appreciation to the Governments of France, Indonesia, the Netherlands and the Republic of Korea and to Canadian University Services Overseas for providing those experts. It further urged members and associate members and agencies to continue and strengthen their support for the provision of Professional and other staff.

476. The operational budget of the Centre in terms of programme expenditure in cash and other forms was estimated to be approximately US$ 698,000, and the institutional support resources US$ 327,100. The Commission acknowledged with appreciation the generous contributions of members and donor agencies to the Centre, including Bangladesh, France, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Netherlands, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Viet Nam, UNDP through FAO, and the International Development Research Center (IDRC).

477. The Commission expressed concern about the Centre's fragile financial base, particularly its institutional support resources. In spite of the recent commencement of or increases in contributions from developing countries, the total amount had not increased noticeably, while the austerity measures to offset price and other inevitable increases in expenditure had reached their limit. It was informed that adjustment of the salary scale of local support staff in accordance with the United Nations regulations had called for further additional funds. The Commission expressed the hope that such funds could be provided.

478. The Commission noted with appreciation the initiative taken by the Government of Indonesia to hold an informal consultative meeting in Jakarta on 3 March 1994. The meeting had been successful and follow-up action was to be taken. At that meeting, several delegations had indicated their intention to increase or start making contributions to the Centre's institutional resources.

479. The Commission noted the appeal by the Governing Board that members and associate members be urged to honour at least the minimum threshold level of contributions to institutional resources earlier set by the Commission, or contribute a larger amount, if possible. The Commission requested members and associate members, particularly developed countries, and donor agencies to increase their programme support.

480. The Commission elected the following countries as members of the Governing Board of the CGPRT Centre for a three-year term: Bangladesh, France, India, Japan, Myanmar, Papua New Guinea, Pakistan, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Viet Nam, in addition to Indonesia as the host Government.

Regional Network for Agricultural Machinery

481. The Commission had before it document E/ESCAP/955, which highlighted the activities of RNAM undertaken since the forty-eighth session of the Commission as no report on the project had been presented during the forty-ninth session.

482. Despite severe human and financial constraints, the project had been able to carry out several activities which assisted the 12 participating countries in the areas of TCDC exchanges of information, hardware and experts; study tours of manufacturers; and extension through demonstrations, exhibitions and the use of the media.

483. The project had arranged study tours of 31 manufacturers, mostly from the private sector, to observe new or different manufacturing techniques in other countries and to explore the possibilities for enhancing trade and technical cooperation among themselves. The Commission noted with appreciation that most of those study tours had been funded by the Governments of China and the Republic of Korea as well as the ESCAP TCDC supplementary fund.

484. The Commission expressed appreciation of the initiative taken by the RNAM project to utilize, on a TCDC basis, the facilities of some of the national institutes of the participating countries to develop the human resources of countries which did not as yet possess such facilities. The Commission noted with appreciation the offers of the Governments of China, India, Pakistan and the Republic of Korea to provide training on a TCDC basis to personnel from countries that requested it. Other countries with adequate capabilities were also requested to provide funds for TCDC activities.

485. The Commission noted with interest that the RNAM project was currently implementing phase I of a UNIDO project on the promotion and development of agro-related metalworking industries in least developed countries. The needs of the eight countries participating in that project, which included six least developed countries and two island developing countries, had already been identified and phase II would be aimed at assisting those countries in meeting those needs. The Commission lauded such inter-agency cooperation, which was not only cost-effective but also enabled effective utilization of the expertise already developed in the region.

486. The Commission noted with satisfaction that Agrimach '93, the third Agricultural Machinery Exhibition and Symposium, had been held successfully in Jakarta in December 1993. Products displayed by 86 manufacturers had been viewed by a large number of visitors, and one-on-one discussions had facilitated negotiations on furthering trade in agricultural machinery and opened possibilities for technical cooperation among the participating manufacturers. The

Commission thanked the Government of Japan for providing funds for that activity and the Government of Indonesia for providing the host facilities. It also noted with appreciation that the Government of Sri Lanka and the Agricultural Machinery Manufacturers Association of Sri Lanka had formally offered host facilities for Agrimach '95. It urged donors to provide funds for Agrimach '95 and to continue supporting such useful activities.

487. The Commission appreciated the financial assistance provided by the German Agency for Technical Cooperation (GTZ) to the project for the publication of *Existing Policies and Strategies for Agricultural Mechanization in RNAM Participating Countries*, which would be a useful reference document for policy makers and planners. It also commended the project for continuing to publish its popular newsletter without interruption, despite severe resource constraints.

488. The Commission noted that later in the year RNAM would launch a project to enhance employment opportunities for rural women, the funds for which would be provided jointly by the Governments of Japan and the Netherlands. The project would involve providing appropriate technologies to rural women, especially landless women, for post-harvest operations and food-processing.

489. The Commission endorsed the recommendations of the Governing Body of RNAM, particularly those relating to the periodicity of its meetings and the establishment of an Asian agricultural machinery manufacturers association. It lauded the project for spearheading efforts in that area and expressed the hope that the association would play a key role in accelerating the pace of agricultural mechanization in the region. It expressed caution, however, about the financial implications for the project resulting from that activity and advised that the association should be activated only after its financial viability, through self-generated resources, was assured.

490. The Commission noted with deep concern that the project continued to face financial difficulties relating to both institutional and programme support. The institutional support crisis had been averted temporarily through the provision by the secretariat of the salaries of the project personnel. However, there had been a gradual decline in programme support funds, which had necessitated curtailing some very useful activities.

491. The Commission acknowledged with appreciation the generous financial support of the Government of Japan and its pledge to continue funding appropriate projects in the future. It urged other donors, especially UNDP, to provide sufficient funds for the programmed activities during the fifth phase of the project (1992-1996), as approved by the Commission at its forty-seventh and forty-eighth sessions. It also urged the participating countries to make their contributions early in the year and at the levels agreed upon.

Restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic and social fields: implementation of Commission resolution 48/2 on restructuring the conference structure of the Commission

492. The Commission had before it document E/ESCAP/956. It expressed appreciation to the secretariat for the information provided in the document on the progress made in the implementation of resolution 48/2 of 23 April 1992. It noted that in view of the importance of the matter, an item on the follow-up to resolution 48/2 had been a recurring item on the agenda of the sessions of the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission (ACPR).

493. The Commission noted that the thematic orientation of the programme of work had taken effect formally on 1 January 1994 with six thematic subprogrammes: regional economic cooperation; environment and sustainable development; poverty alleviation through economic growth and social development; transport and communications; statistics; and least developed, land-locked and island developing countries.

494. The thematic approach provided a practical means for dealing with the many complex development problems facing the region and would contribute to greater utilization of the expertise and multisectoral capabilities of the secretariat, while eliciting greater cooperation from other organizations both within and outside the United Nations system as well as with subregional groupings.

495. Since the adoption of resolution 48/2, the first cycle of meetings of all the Committees and Special Bodies established under the revised conference structure had been completed successfully. The Commission expressed satisfaction at the quality of the deliberations as well as the level of participation in those meetings and urged members and associate members to sustain that interest. It cited the need for improving coordination between the respective subsidiary bodies and for reducing the length of documents submitted to those bodies. It reiterated the need for the timely submission of documents. It also emphasized the important role being played by the Special Body on Least Developed and Land-locked Developing Countries and the Special Body on Pacific Island Developing Countries.

496. It was suggested that in view of the increasing emphasis being placed by members and associate members on the importance of infrastructure

development, consideration should be given to enlarging the scope of the Committee on Transport and Communications to encompass all areas of physical infrastructure. The Committee could be renamed "Committee for Infrastructure and Tourism Development".

497. The Commission emphasized the importance of environment and sustainable development in the activities being undertaken by the secretariat. It emphasized the need for further devolution of resources to the regional commissions as part of the ongoing decentralization exercise, particularly in the areas of natural resources and energy as well as regional advisory services.

498. The Commission felt that since ministries and departments remained, by and large, sectoral in their approach, the secretariat should endeavour to work in a systematic manner to ensure the harmonization of its work with the organizational structure prevailing among members and associate members, while retaining the thematic orientation in its work. Concurrently, members and associate members should strive to enhance the level of their participation in the meetings of subsidiary bodies of the Commission.

499. The Commission commended the secretariat on the extent of implementation of resolution 48/2 and, in particular, the efforts made by the Executive Secretary to reorganize the secretariat so as to enhance its capability to service the thematic intergovernmental structure subsidiary to the Commission and implement the revised programme of work. It expressed appreciation of the establishment of the interdivisional working groups, which it considered a useful and innovative vehicle for implementing thematic programmes and ensuring a more effective functional relationship between concerned divisions. It noted that the new organizational structure had become operational provisionally as of 17 January 1994, pending the approval of the Secretary-General. It further noted the considerations which had been taken into account in formulating the revised secretariat structure.

500. The Commission felt that the reorganization of the secretariat would lead to greater efficiency and efficacy in ESCAP efforts to promote economic and social development, with a view to enhancing further the prospects for regional cooperation. In that connection, the implementation of action-oriented, concrete thematic projects was emphasized. The reorganization of the secretariat also provided an opportunity to strengthen cooperation with other relevant organizations through the implementation of programmes and projects. At the same time, efforts would have to be made to ensure avoidance of duplication of functions within the secretariat. It was felt that the new secretariat structure would strengthen its capabilities to adapt to the rapidly changing requirements of members and associate members. Special emphasis would need to be placed on encouraging a more interdisciplinary approach to the work of the secretariat.

501. The Commission felt that the reorganization of the secretariat should take into account the ongoing prioritization exercise with a view to ensuring that activities regarded as low priority be dropped and that the secretariat continue to enhance the productivity of its efforts.

502. It emphasized the need for greater attention to be accorded, in the process of recruitment, to the qualifications of staff and the principle of equitable geographical distribution.

503. The view was also expressed that as a result of the ongoing process of decentralization, the regional commissions might have an expanded role to play in such areas as preventive diplomacy and conflict resolution.

Inter-organizational cooperation

Cooperation between ESCAP and other organizations in the promotion of economic and social development in the region

504. The Commission had before it document E/ESCAP/957. It commended the secretariat on the information provided in the document and endorsed the views contained in it. It welcomed the effort made by the secretariat to strengthen the relationship with other United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, intergovernmental organizations, financial institutions, subregional organizations, NGOs, community organizations and research institutions. Those efforts had served to enhance the ability of ESCAP to harness the potential offered by the rapidly changing economic and social development scenario of the region for the benefit of members and associate members, and were in consonance with the renewed focus and revised priorities established by the Commission.

505. The Commission welcomed the recent initiative taken by the Executive Secretary to invite the heads of subregional organizations to a consultative meeting to exchange information on the work programmes of the respective organizations and to identify the scope for further cooperation. It noted that subregional groupings could play a useful role as a basis for strengthening regional and intersubregional linkages and cooperation. Cooperation between the subregional groupings and ESCAP should serve to facilitate more effective support to the developing countries of the region so as to enable them to take advantage of the growing potential in intraregional trade, investment and technology transfer. Such consultations between the ESCAP secretariat and subregional organizations should be held on a continuing basis, and at least once a year. It recognized that there were other subregional groupings, either already in existence or being formed, with which ESCAP could usefully interact.

506. The Commission was informed that the holding of the consultative meeting of subregional organizations was also in conformity with the views of the Tenth Summit Meeting of Heads of States and Governments of the Non-Aligned Movement, held in Jakarta in September 1992, which had made special reference to the need for such undertakings.

507. The Commission also welcomed the signing of a memorandum of understanding between ECO and ESCAP in July 1993, as well as a framework agreement between SAARC and ESCAP in February 1994. It also noted that a memorandum of understanding between ESCAP and the Forum Secretariat was expected to be signed shortly by the executive heads of the two organizations, while similar arrangements were currently under consideration by the ASEAN secretariat and the South Pacific Commission.

508. The Commission also noted the increasingly close cooperation between ESCAP and the financial institutions, including in particular ADB, and welcomed the signing of a memorandum of understanding between the two organizations in April 1993. It felt that the formalization of the relationship between ESCAP and ADB would provide for greater professional interaction in the priority areas delineated under the new thematic programme structure of ESCAP. ADB and ESCAP could work together and use the complementarities of professional and specialized skills that existed within the two organizations.

509. Enhanced cooperation between ESCAP and the World Bank could also contribute to resolving many of the significant socio-economic problems of the region. The Commission expressed the hope that broadening the scope of cooperation between ESCAP and the financial institutions would assist in the implementation of projects designed to benefit members and associate members, including, in particular, the neediest countries.

510. The Commission reiterated the provisions contained in General Assembly resolution 32/197 of 20 December 1977, on restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system, in relation to the regional commissions and their role in enhancing inter-agency coordination as well as team leadership. It welcomed the efforts made by the secretariat to avoid duplication in the work of various United Nations bodies and agencies by coordinating the meetings of inter-agency committees and task forces.

511. The Commission recognized the inherent difficulties in enhancing cooperation with organizations having different mandates and objectives. Those difficulties were at times compounded by the lack of political will and financial support. ESCAP alone could not be expected to resolve problems of coordination and cooperation.

512. The Commission welcomed the efforts made by the secretariat to enhance cooperation with NGOs, community organizations and research institutions. It noted that the holding of the ESCAP/NGO Regional Symposium on Cooperation for Economic and Social Development in the ESCAP Region in June 1988 had served a useful purpose in initiating a dialogue between ESCAP and selected NGOs concerned with development at the grass-roots level.

513. The Commission recognized the important role played by NGOs in promoting economic and social development. It noted that a number of initiatives had been taken by ESCAP, which had resulted in the establishment of such entities as the Asia-Pacific Forum of Environmental Journalists (AFEJ) and the Regional Network of Local Authorities for the Management of Human Settlements (CITYNET). More recently, the Network of Human Settlements Research and Training Institutes in Asia and the Pacific (TRISHNET) had been established at a meeting held in New Delhi in September 1993. In the social development field, numerous activities had been initiated by ESCAP within the framework of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 1993-2002. It welcomed the convening of the Asian and Pacific Symposium of NGOs on Women in Development in Manila in November 1993, as a preparatory activity for the Second Asian and Pacific Ministerial Conference on Women in Development. The Commission emphasized the need for further involvement of NGOs in the work of ESCAP.

514. The Commission welcomed the statements made by various agencies, intergovernmental bodies and NGOs on their activities and suggested that, in its future deliberations on the subject, such statements should reflect in greater detail the nature of the cooperative relationships between those entities and ESCAP.

515. The representative of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) referred to the forthcoming International Conference on Population and Development and expressed the hope that countries of the ESCAP region would participate actively in that Conference. He noted that, historically, the Asian and Pacific region had received the largest proportion of the Fund's annual programme allocations. In 1993, that had amounted to about one third of its total programmes. UNFPA would ensure that programmes in the Asian and Pacific region would continue to receive a significant share of UNFPA assistance.

516. The representative of the World Health Organization drew attention to Commission resolution 49/9 of 29 April 1993 on the eradication of preventable diseases in the Asian and Pacific region as a component of social and economic development. In accordance with the terms of that resolution, WHO would intensify its collaboration with member States. It also intended to participate in the forthcoming Asian and Pacific Ministerial Conference in Preparation for the World Summit for Social Development.

517. The representative of the International Labour Organization referred to the changing role of his organization with a view to enabling it to play a more concerted, coherent and effective role in social development. Under its "active partnership" policy, ILO had set up three multidisciplinary teams, located in Bangkok, Manila and New Delhi. It had been cooperating with ESCAP in the preparations for the Ministerial Conference, including on the key social problems of poverty, employment and social exclusion. ILO also looked forward to cooperating with ESCAP in other areas, such as labour standards and trade.

518. The representative of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization referred to the long-standing and close cooperation between ESCAP and UNIDO. Like ESCAP, UNIDO had recently undergone a major process of setting new priorities and implementing organizational and managerial reform, with a view to improving the quality of its programmes and services. The Tehran Declaration on Strengthening Regional Cooperation for Technology-led Industrialization in Asia and the Pacific, adopted at the Meeting of Ministers of Industry and Technology held in Tehran in June 1992, had provided a suitable framework for a wide range of cooperative efforts, with special attention being paid to the needs of the region's least developed countries. UNIDO was also cooperating closely with RNAM in addressing the specific needs of agro-related and agro-processing industries in the member countries. UNIDO intended to strengthen its own field representation and invited ESCAP to draw on the information and advisory services available from UNIDO offices in the region.

519. The representative of the World Assembly of Small and Medium Enterprises noted that his organization's relationship with ESCAP had been strengthened considerably in several areas of activity. He cited the support received from ESCAP in organizing the World Convention of Small and Medium Enterprises, held in Beijing in March 1993. ESCAP and WASME had also cooperated in the holding of the Symposium on Financing of Small and Medium Enterprises in Asia and the Pacific, held in New Delhi in November 1993. WASME had contributed to and participated in the ESCAP Seminar on the Expansion of the Export of Manufactured Products of Small and Medium Enterprises, held in Bangkok in November-December 1993. It also intended to forward proposals to ESCAP for organizing a regional symposium on food-processing industries in the ESCAP region as well as for a symposium on the theme "Micro-engineering and chemical enterprises and environmental protection". He expressed the interest of WASME in the implementation of the regional investment, information and promotion service. He also expressed the hope that WASME and ESCAP could cooperate more actively in the areas of women in development and human resources development, as well as in the implementation of the Seoul Plan of Action for Promoting Industrial Restructuring in Asia and the Pacific. In that connection, he referred to the recent establishment, under the auspices of WASME, of the International Federation of Women Entrepreneurs (IFWE).

520. The representative of the Pacific Economic Cooperation Council referred to the complementarities between PECC and ESCAP in enhancing regionwide economic cooperation and trade and investment development. Collaboration between the two organizations could take place in the areas of information exchange, research findings, survey results, task force reports and policy recommendations, as well as collection of statistical data. Such collaboration could be undertaken at the level of PECC Task Force/Forum Secretariat activities and projects and programme activities of ESCAP.

521. The representative of the International Youth and Student Movement for the United Nations reiterated his organization's commitment to working closely with the organizations of the United Nations system, including ESCAP, in promoting equitable and sustainable economic and social development. ISMUN was currently involved in preparations for the forthcoming International Conference on Population and Development, as well as the tenth anniversary of the International Youth Year, to be observed in 1995.

522. The representative of the Asian Productivity Organization noted that APO was in regular contact with various organizations, including ESCAP, which had been providing resource inputs to specific projects of APO. He cited the importance of productive enhancement and human resources development as key elements for improving the quality of life in the region, which would require the concerted cooperation of national and international organizations.

523. The representative of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme stated that UNDCP supported community-based drug demand reduction activities in the form of subregional projects in China, Myanmar and Thailand, drawing upon the initiatives of ESCAP in that field. ESCAP had been chosen as executing agency for such projects. The representative of UNDCP expressed the hope that problems related to drug abuse would be given due attention in the context of other relevant activities of ESCAP, such as those related to poverty alleviation and the preparations for the World Summit for Social Development. Given the complex interrelationship between drug abuse and other social phenomena, UNDCP looked forward to cooperating with ESCAP in the work to be undertaken in those areas, as well as in its continuing work on drug abuse, as provided for in the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997.

524. The representative of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations stated that FAO had been cooperating closely with ESCAP in several fields,

including environment and development, integrated rural development, social development, disability-related concerns, water resources and fertilizer use. FAO stood ready to provide information on programmes as well as specific activities both within the framework of the existing inter-agency committees and task forces and through informal contacts, with a view to avoiding duplication and ensuring coordination in the activities of the two organizations.

Strengthening the role of ESCAP in the coordination of regional operational activities: implementation of Commission resolution 49/10

525. The Commission had before it document E/ESCAP/958. It noted that, in pursuance of resolution 49/10 of 29 April 1993 on strengthening the role of ESCAP in the coordination of regional operational activities, all agencies had indicated their support for the resolution, in which the Commission had called for strengthening of the coordination of the regional operational activities of the United Nations system, and had reiterated their intention to continue their cooperation with ESCAP.

526. The strengthening of cooperation and coordination had been accorded high priority by the Secretary-General of the United Nations who, in addressing the heads of various agencies and organizations, members of the Administrative Committee on Coordination, had noted that regional cooperation arrangements could be a powerful source of growth and leverage. He had emphasized the need for exploiting fully the regional arrangements for governance and the mobilization of regional resources in support of global development, with a view to ensuring that regional approaches and solutions to development problems were addressed by the system. In recent months he had given renewed attention to the role the regional commissions could play as catalysts for more coherent, system-wide regional strategies.

527. The Commission noted that funds provided by UNDP had in the past played a significant role in sustaining and generating cooperation arrangements for operational activities with agencies and organizations. Some of those arrangements still served as extremely useful vehicles for the coordinated implementation of activities and programmes funded by UNDP. Funds from that source had also played a useful role in encouraging new cooperation arrangements for operational activities with research institutions and NGOs in the region. With the recent drastic reduction in resources from the UNDP regional programme, the scope for such cooperation in operational activities had declined.

528. The Commission endorsed the proposal that concerned agencies, organizations and ESCAP should meet to review jointly the ways and means, including the functioning of inter-agency committees and task forces, of making their cooperation arrangements more effective and broad-based.

529. The Commission also noted the deliberations in the General Assembly on the implementation of resolutions 45/264 of 13 May 1991 and 46/235 of 13 April 1992 on restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields, and expressed the hope that future deliberations in the General Assembly would result in improvement in the distribution of responsibilities between United Nations Headquarters and the centres, regional commissions and entities in the field.

530. The representative of UNDP referred to differences and complementarities in the work of UNDP and the regional commissions. Their interlocking agendas compelled the pursuit of a coordinated approach to development assistance. He referred to the proposal made by the Administrator of UNDP that a task force be set up to identify areas and modalities for collaboration between UNDP and the regional commissions. It was hoped that the task force would be established shortly. The Administrator's proposal was in consonance with the Secretary-General's efforts to strengthen coordination at the regional level. The representative of UNDP expressed particular satisfaction at the efforts by the Executive Secretary to strengthen collaboration with regional institutions.

Reports of regional intergovernmental bodies

Committee for Coordination of Joint Prospecting for Mineral Resources in Asian Offshore Areas

531. The Commission had before it the report of the Committee for Coordination of Joint Prospecting for Mineral Resources in Asian Offshore Areas, transmitted by the secretariat for information in document E/ESCAP/959. It noted with appreciation the achievements of the Committee in 1993 in the field of fundamental geological research and offshore oil and gas exploration in the region.

532. It was the view of the Commission that the growing momentum of economic activities at the regional level, in particular those relating to trade, investment and transfer of technology, were creating vast new opportunities for the work of the Committee. The Commission suggested that the Committee should contribute to the enhancement of both international and regional cooperation in the expansion of the inventory of offshore natural resources in the region and the integration of environmental concerns into the policy on natural resources undertakings.

533. Recalling the successful thirtieth annual meeting of the Committee and the meeting of its Steering Committee, both hosted by Indonesia in November 1993, and the support extended by its members and cooperating countries, the Commission urged the Director of CCOP to implement the decisions made by

the Steering Committee and to ensure the effectiveness of the CCOP secretariat.

534. The Commission also urged the donor countries and agencies to provide further institutional and programme support to the Committee.

Interim Committee for Coordination of Investigations of the Lower Mekong Basin

535. The Commission had before it the summary of activities during 1993 and plan for 1994 of the Interim Committee for Coordination of Investigations of the Lower Mekong Basin, transmitted by the secretariat in document E/ESCAP/960/Rev.1. It commended the Mekong Secretariat on the various activities it had carried out for the benefit of all lower Mekong riparian countries for more than 35 years.

536. The Commission took note with appreciation of the progress of the negotiations among the four lower Mekong riparian countries within the framework of the established Mekong Working Group.

537. Some countries expressed the hope that following the meeting among those countries that had been held in Vientiane in January 1994, further progress would be made which would lead to an early conclusion of the new agreement on sustainable development in the lower Mekong basin. The new agreement would serve as a booster for the strengthening of cooperation and cohesion. They urged UNDP to continue to support the negotiation process.

538. Some donor countries expressed their continued support for the Mekong Secretariat and looked forward to participating actively in the annual meeting to consider the 1994 Mekong work programme.

539. The representative of Thailand expressed the hope that the ongoing consultations would lead to a new cooperation regime which would be balanced and would satisfy the interests of all parties directly concerned. The representative of France indicated his Government's continuous support for the work of the Mekong Secretariat as exemplified in its provision of experts, and financing of several studies, including the southern Lao corridor study. The representative of Japan said that Japan would continue to extend its cooperation to the Mekong Secretariat by providing financial support as well as experts on a long-term basis. The representative of the Netherlands expressed the desire to see a positive and balanced outcome soon in order to maintain donor interest and support. He wished the four lower Mekong riparian countries success with their consultations, and commended UNDP on its proactive involvement.

Typhoon Committee

540. The Commission had before it the report of the Typhoon Committee, transmitted by the ESCAP secretariat for information in document E/ESCAP/961. It noted with appreciation the progress achieved by the Committee in the preparedness for and mitigation of disasters caused by tropical cyclones, and the active support of the ESCAP secretariat to its activities.

541. Tropical cyclones and the resulting floods were among the most devastating natural disasters that affected a number of countries in the ESCAP region. The continuous support to the Typhoon Committee and the Panel on Tropical Cyclones, and the increasing role of the ESCAP secretariat pertaining to natural disaster mitigation, were highly appreciated.

542. The Commission urged UNDP and the ESCAP secretariat to continue their support to those two intergovernmental bodies, in particular, the Regional Cooperation Programme Implementation Plan of the Typhoon Committee, and the activities of the Panel on Tropical Cyclones and exchange of experience under the programme of TCDC.

Asian and Pacific Development Centre

543. The Commission had before it the report of the Asian and Pacific Development Centre, transmitted by the ESCAP secretariat for information in document E/ESCAP/962.

544. The Director of the Centre informed the Commission that 1993 had been a significant year for APDC as it marked the completion of a decade as an autonomous intergovernmental organization. That the Centre had matured into an important regional entity was due to the active support of the member Governments and donor agencies. With the signing of the Charter of APDC by Macau on 4 October 1993, the Centre currently had 22 members and associate members.

545. Referring to the activities of the Centre during 1993, the Director informed the Commission that 19 projects had been undertaken, of which 8 had been funded by UNDP and 11 by other donor agencies and countries. The Centre had received US$ 1,233,288 for its programme activities. UNDP was the major source of funding; other donors included the Government of the Netherlands, ADB, the Canada-ASEAN Centre, the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), Development Alternatives with Women for a New Era (DAWN), GTZ, the Swedish International Development Authority (SIDA) and the World Bank. The projects carried out were in the programme areas of energy, economic management, information technology, poverty alleviation, public management, regional cooperation, and women in development. In addition, APDC had issued seven publications.

546. The Director reported that UNDP had assigned APDC as the executing agency for the UNDP regional poverty alleviation programme, with ESCAP, ILO, SIAP and United Nations Volunteers (UNV) as implementing agencies for its various components. That responsibility, accorded to APDC, manifested the full

recognition of its mandate to play a lead role in working with member Governments in that programme.

547. Reporting on the financial status of the Centre, the Director informed the Commission that the operating fund available for 1993 had amounted to US$ 3,047,377, an increase of 2.4 per cent over 1992. Overall, the operating budget for 1993 showed a deficit of US$ 81,497, in contrast to a surplus in 1992.

548. The Director urged the member Governments to consider financing the institutional costs of the Centre on an adequate basis since, although costs had risen considerably, the contribution pledges had remained at the original level of 1983.

549. One delegation stated that APDC had performed important work in various programme areas through both research and training. Its network mechanism had proved useful for academic as well as policy purposes. It was also suggested that APDC should play the role of think-tank for ESCAP.

550. Another delegation observed that APDC was active in fulfilling the vision of its founders as an institution for providing intellectual input in critical areas of development. It congratulated Macau on joining APDC as an associate member. However, it expressed concern about the status of the operating fund and hoped that member Governments and donors would provide additional support.

551. The representative of UNDP informed the Commission that APDC had provided valuable assistance in executing the project relating to the socio-economic dialogue on Indo-China held in Thailand in August 1993. The confidence of UNDP in the capability of APDC was evidenced by the fact that it had entrusted to APDC the integrated poverty alleviation programme to which the representative of UNDP had referred in his statement in the plenary.

552. One delegation stated that the report of APDC showed that it had undertaken practical and effective activities in key areas related to development in the region. The Centre had provided useful information to institutions in China and that country would continue to participate in various activities of the Centre.

553. The delegation of Japan assured the Commission of its country's continued support to APDC.

Programme planning

Programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995, as adopted by the General Assembly, and proposed programme changes

554. The Commission had before it documents E/ESCAP/963 and Corr.1-3, E/ESCAP/964 and Corr.1 and E/ESCAP/965. It noted with appreciation that ACPR had reviewed the programme of work and related proposals contained in those documents.

555. The Commission recalled that it had endorsed the programme of work, 1994-1995, at its forty-ninth session. That programme had been prepared within the framework of the revised programme 31 in the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997, drawn up on the basis of the Commission's new thematic programme and adopted by the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session in 1992.

556. The Executive Secretary explained, however, that prior to the submission of the ESCAP programme of work in the Secretary-General's proposed programme budget for approval by the General Assembly, the ESCAP secretariat had been advised by the Office of Programme Planning, Budget and Finance at Headquarters, New York, that in the light of the recommendations of the Advisory Board on Budget and Finance, the request of ESCAP for 11 additional regular budget posts could not be included in the Secretary-General's proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995. That decision had necessitated immediate secretariat action to revise the projected activities and outputs in the programme of work prior to its submission to the General Assembly, particularly to tailor the programme to the given level of resources and avoid overprogramming.

557. The programme of work, 1994-1995, as adjusted, had been presented subsequently as the Secretary-General's proposed programme budget in document A/48/6 (Section 16) and adopted by the General Assembly. That programme was reflected in annex I, column 1 of document E/ESCAP/963.

558. The Commission noted that the General Assembly had approved the Secretary-General's budget for the regular programme of technical cooperation, which, for the biennium 1994-1995, had been decentralized to the regional commissions. As a result, the current resources under that section of the budget, which comprised funds for 10 regional advisers, had been augmented for the biennium 1994-1995 to cover an additional five to six regional advisers and the organization of several group training activities. Decentralization in the regular programmes of the United Nations, however, had been suspended further except in the areas of natural resources and energy. In those areas, the Commission noted that the Secretary-General intended to propose to the General Assembly the decentralization of two Professional and two General Service posts each to the four regional commissions in the developing regions and one Professional and one General Service post to the Economic Commission for Europe. That was expected to be implemented in the second half of 1994, subject to approval by the General Assembly.

559. The Commission noted that several factors had necessitated the additional proposals contained in document E/ESCAP/963 for the deletion, addition and modification of activities and outputs in the programme

of work. Those were related to recommendations arising from the deliberations of ESCAP legislative committees and ministerial conferences convened since the forty-ninth session of the Commission; resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly and Economic and Social Council relevant to regional cooperation; and secretariat efforts to consolidate resources to support the thematic programme implementation and to reflect better the activities actually undertaken by the Commission.

560. The attention of the Commission was called to document E/ESCAP/964 and Corr.1, containing an analysis of the implementation of the programme of work during the biennium 1992-1993. The document presented an analysis of the logistical and resource constraints faced in implementing the programme of work for the previous biennium, thereby enabling the Commission to make a more realistic appraisal of the secretariat's capacity. In that regard, the Commission commended highly the initiatives of the Executive Secretary in the recent reorganization of the secretariat, the holding of consultations with other subregional intergovernmental bodies, and staff seminars on thematic reorientation. It believed that such measures would greatly strengthen the multidisciplinary thematic programme approach, avoid redundancy and improve the efficiency and effectiveness of programme implementation.

561. The Commission endorsed the proposed changes to the programme of work for the biennium 1994-1995 as contained in document E/ESCAP/963 and Corr.1-3.

562. In endorsing the changes, the Commission commended the secretariat's efforts in the effective implementation of the programme of work, despite the non-increase in regular budget staff resources, in the face of the Commission's increased membership over the past years and its expanded responsibility. It recognized the resource limitations throughout the United Nations system, but in the light of its restructuring efforts in the economic and social sectors, it expressed the hope that United Nations Headquarters would consider increasing its regular budget resource allocation to ESCAP to enable it to meet the development needs of the region more effectively.

563. In view of regular and extrabudgetary resource constraints, the Commission called on the secretariat to continue to explore innovative methods for implementing activities through greater cooperation and collaboration with appropriate regional and national institutions. It also requested that programme activities recommended by the respective Committees and Special Bodies be included in the programme of work for subsequent bienniums if it was not possible to include them in the current biennium.

564. The Commission reiterated its continuing support for the thematic programme of work and urged that efforts be made to consolidate ESCAP activities further along the lines of the thematic approach.

565. Attention was drawn to various subprogrammes, especially regional economic cooperation, to which the Commission had accorded high priority. Specific reference was made to technical assistance activities related to the important areas of trade and investment promotion, standardization and quality control, tariff and non-tariff barriers to trade, including environmental issues, the development of small and medium enterprises, and the outcome of the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations and its impact in areas of particular concern to developing countries. The following subjects, among others, were also recommended: strategies for international trade in the twenty-first century; foreign direct investment in Asia and the Pacific and intraregional trade and tourism flows as vehicles of regional economic cooperation; enhancement of the sharing of experience in trade promotion techniques and measures; and trade financing for small and medium enterprises.

566. Several delegations emphasized the need for institutional and capacity building and for strengthening activities in the field of human resources development. It was pointed out that such development should be a major priority across a range of sectors and that the countries of the region stood to gain much from ESCAP support of activities to upgrade human resources. It was proposed that among the activities to be undertaken in that field should be the promotion of exchange of scientists, technologists, academics and professionals through TCDC.

567. The Commission reiterated its support for the mandate of the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development in coordinating the activities of the United Nations system with regard to the follow-up of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, including the implementation of Agenda 21.

568. Continuing support was also expressed for giving priority to the Pacific island countries in programmes of technical assistance.

569. The Commission endorsed the secretariat proposals for completing or, alternatively, terminating those outputs/activities which had been authorized in the biennium 1992-1993 but could not be delivered by the end of December 1993.

570. It approved the tentative calendar of meetings for 1994/95 as contained in document E/ESCAP/965, noting that, in the case of meetings funded from extrabudgetary resources, unlike in previous years only those which carried some indication of funding support had been included.

Second revision of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997

571. The Commission had before it documents E/ESCAP/966 and E/ESCAP/967. It recalled that under the programming regulations and rules, a review and any necessary revision of the medium-term plan was to be carried out every two years. The first revision to programme 31, Regional cooperation for development in Asia and the Pacific, under major programme VI, Regional cooperation for economic and social development, of the United Nations medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997, had been prepared on the basis of the Commission's adoption at its forty-eighth session in 1992 of a thematic approach. The General Assembly had welcomed the thematic reorientation and had adopted the revised programme 31 at its forty-seventh session in 1992.

572. The Commission observed that the proposed second revision to the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 as contained in annex II to document E/ESCAP/966 related only to minor textual changes based on the recommendations of the legislative Committees and Special Bodies that had met since the first revision of the medium-term plan. It noted with appreciation the work of the various legislative Committees, the Special Bodies and ACPR in the preparation of the document.

573. The Commission approved the proposals for the second revision of the medium-term plan, noting that upon its subsequent adoption by the General Assembly, the plan, as revised, would provide the framework for preparing the programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997.

574. It also endorsed the secretariat's proposals for the schedule of self-evaluation of the six subprogrammes, and stressed the importance of such exercises to improve the delivery and effectiveness of the plan as contained in programme 31. Further refinement of the plan would have to be effected for the forthcoming biennium, in the light of the experience gained in implementing the thematic structure of the plan and the emerging needs and changing priorities in regional economic and social development in the coming years. That refinement would be necessary especially in the light of the new impetus given to the role of the regional commissions in the move towards decentralization in the recent and continuing restructuring efforts of the United Nations. Particular care should be taken to avoid the duplication of activities and programmes already executed or under execution by other bodies and agencies of the United Nations and other intergovernmental organizations in the region.

Issues relevant to and resources for the technical cooperation activities of ESCAP

575. The Commission had before it document E/ESCAP/968, on issues relevant to and resources for the technical cooperation activities of ESCAP.

576. The Executive Secretary informed the Commission that the ability of ESCAP to undertake operational activities for its developing members and associate members depended on the extrabudgetary resources contributed by Governments, organizations and agencies of the United Nations and NGOs. The adverse changing trends in resource flows for development aid globally, including the stagnant ODA of donor countries, increasing pressure and competing demands for scarce development assistance resources, as well as the reduced contributions of UNDP and UNFPA to ESCAP, had necessitated the strengthening of secretariat efforts to mobilize resources. As the reduction in the UNDP and UNFPA contributions to the ESCAP technical cooperation programme was expected to continue, he emphasized that the question of increased contributions from bilateral donors and members and associate members and alternative modes of resource provision had become critical, particularly as the technical cooperation needs of members and associate members were increasing as a result of the Commission's expanded membership and new mandates. With the adoption of the thematic programme of work in the secretariat, there was a consequential increase in the size of individual projects as well as their duration. For the thematic approach to succeed, new approaches would have to be applied to the funding provisions currently adopted by the donors, such as support for multi-year projects, increasing the budget ceiling of each project, early disbursement of approved funds for the implementation of technical cooperation activities, and the selection process of project proposals for funding by donors.

577. The Executive Secretary drew the attention of the Commission to the financial shortfalls in institutional support funds provided by participating countries for the three regional institutions operating under the auspices of ESCAP, the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology (APCTT), the Regional Coordination Centre for Research and Development of Coarse Grains, Pulses, Roots and Tuber Crops in the Humid Tropics of Asia and the Pacific (CGPRT Centre) and the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (SIAP), and the special regional project on the Regional Network for Agricultural Machinery (RNAM). The inability to ensure their institutional viability had seriously affected their efforts to obtain adequate resources for the implementation of their programmes of work. He also drew the attention of the Commission to the issue of timely payment of intended contributions towards the institutional costs for the regional institutions and RNAM, which had remained largely unresolved.

578. The Executive Secretary drew the attention of the Commission to the proposals of the secretariat contained in paragraphs 4-8 and 10 of document E/ESCAP/968, which he summarized as follows:

(a) Increase in annual contributions by donors, participating countries, multilateral funding agencies, and regional financial institutions;

(b) Establishment of new developing country-ESCAP cooperation funds by more advanced developing members and associate members;

(c) Pooling of donors' extrabudgetary contributions under specific themes and increase in the annual budget ceiling per project, with a view to facilitating the thematic approach;

(d) More expeditious transfer and disbursement of contributions to the secretariat;

(e) Greater flexibility in the project approval process, such as by allowing the secretariat to determine the package of projects to be financed from donors' annual contributions;

(f) Increase in contributions towards the institutional and programme support of regional institutions and RNAM by the participating Governments and donor countries, with the least developed countries contributing a minimum of US$ 1,000 and other developing countries a minimum of US$ 15,000 towards institutional support, and payment of such contributions at the beginning of every calendar year for each of the regional institutions and RNAM.

579. Some delegations, while noting that the implementation of the ESCAP programme of work had to depend to a large extent on extrabudgetary resources from bilateral and multilateral sources and that the availability of resources over the years had not grown commensurately with the expanded membership and mandates of the Commission, suggested that the secretariat should continue to explore innovative methods for the implementation of activities through greater cooperation with appropriate regional and national institutions. They emphasized that the comparative advantage of ESCAP lay in intersectoral activities, and that any decline in such activities would be detrimental in the long run and would also negate the mandates given to it by the members and associate members. They urged donors to contribute liberally to sustain the efforts of the secretariat. They suggested that the secretariat should explore a resource multiplier strategy by examining closely the activities of other United Nations agencies, particularly UNDP, in the region. They further suggested that the secretariat should enter into serious dialogue with UNDP and ADB. They considered that the issue of the selection process of project proposals for funding by the donors deserved serious consideration, and suggested that the secretariat might convene a seminar to discuss the issue with donors on a common platform. They emphasized the importance of ensuring the financial viability of the three regional institutions and RNAM. They suggested that those institutions and RNAM should also try to generate their own resources by providing expertise to specialized United Nations agencies and other multilateral agencies.

580. With regard to the multi-year nature of projects, one delegation, while commending the success of the ECDC-TCDC activities of the secretariat in past years and expressing the full support of his Government for the technical cooperation activities of ESCAP through an increase in its contributions, pointed to the limitation of projects of a multi-year nature since they could have adverse implications for the capability of countries concerned to carry out such projects.

581. The Commission took note of the proposals of the secretariat.

Announcement of intended contributions

Technical cooperation activities of ESCAP and announcement of intended contributions

582. The Commission had before it documents E/ESCAP/969 and Corr.1, E/ESCAP/973 and E/ESCAP/975.

583. The Executive Secretary informed the Commission that the total extrabudgetary resources available to ESCAP for the implementation of its technical cooperation activities in 1993 had amounted to US$ 16.02 million, a decrease of US$ 3.49 million, or 18 per cent, over the 1992 level of US$ 19.51 million. The decrease had been basically due to the reduction in funding of ESCAP technical cooperation projects by UNDP from US$ 5.42 million in 1992 to US$ 2.8 million in 1993.

584. With regard to the sources of extrabudgetary resources in 1993, he informed the Commission that the United Nations family had provided US$ 6.76 million, or 42.24 per cent of the extrabudgetary cash resources, whereas bilateral donors and developing members and associate members together had contributed US$ 8.8 million, or 54.94 per cent, and other organizations US$ 451,760, or 2.82 per cent. Of the US$ 8.8 million contributed by bilateral donors and developing members and associate members, Australia, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Japan and the Netherlands had together contributed about US$ 7.58 million, or 86.14 per cent of total bilateral assistance; Japan was the largest bilateral donor to ESCAP, with a contribution of US$ 4.54 million, followed by the Netherlands, which had contributed around US$ 2.11 million. Twenty-three developing members and associate members had together contributed US$ 1.11 million, or 13.86 per cent. Among them, the largest donor was the Republic of Korea, which had contributed US$ 491,656 in cash, or 40.3 per cent of the cash contributions from developing countries, followed by China, which had contributed US$ 219,866 in cash, or 18 per cent.

585. The generous contributions of bilateral donors, developing members and associate members had enabled

the secretariat to initiate implementation of 78 technical cooperation projects, with a financial outlay of US$ 6.27 million, under its programme of work. The remaining amount of US$ 2.53 million had been for institutional and programme support to ESCAP regional institutions, RNAM, the Pacific Trust Fund and the ESCAP Pacific Operations Centre (ESCAP/POC).

586. In addition to cash contributions, donors and developing members had provided 230.25 work-months of services by experts recruited on a non-reimbursable loan basis in various disciplines in 1993, as compared with 300.25 work-months of such services received by ESCAP during 1992. The invaluable services of experts on non-reimbursable loan had augmented the regular staff of the secretariat and had greatly enhanced its capability in rendering technical assistance to as well as in implementing technical cooperation activities for the benefit of the developing members and associate members. He expressed the hope that donors and developing members alike would continue to provide the services of such experts to ESCAP.

587. The Executive Secretary expressed deep appreciation and gratitude to all donor countries, developing members and associate members, funding agencies within the United Nations system and other organizations for their generous and invaluable extrabudgetary contributions, which had enhanced significantly the secretariat's capability to implement its technical cooperation programmes for the benefit of the developing members and associate members. He expressed confidence that all Governments would continue to give ESCAP their unflagging support, particularly in the light of the reorientation of the ESCAP programme of work to a thematic approach, and the increasing need for technical assistance and technical cooperation by developing members and associate members resulting from the expanded membership of the Commission. He therefore hoped that the results of the pledging exercise would not only reaffirm the commitment of members and associate members to the ideals and purposes for which the Commission had been established but also enable ESCAP to carry out its mandate effectively.

588. The Commission took note of the following intended contributions announced for 1994.

589. *Australia*. The representative of Australia announced that his Government would contribute $A 400,000 towards the ESCAP extrabudgetary programme in 1994. The fund would be used to support seven new and ongoing multi-year projects, which would include a feasibility study for the My Thuan Bridge in Viet Nam, salinity forecasting in the Mekong delta, and a development planning project on the economic performance and practice of Pacific island economies. He expressed satisfaction with the mechanism of biannual programme planning consultations with the secretariat, which had contributed to improvement in the targeting and impact of activities supported by his Government. The mechanism had also contributed to improved coordination among the divisions of the secretariat in promoting extrabudgetary project proposals. He reiterated his Government's support to the biannual programme planning consultation mechanism, and hoped that it would contribute to further improvement in the implementation of the extrabudgetary programme. The agreed areas of priority for support between Australia and ESCAP were the environment, health and drug abuse, poverty alleviation, and transport and communications. Relationships had been established between ESCAP and the following Australian departments: (a) the Department of Industry, Science and Technology, for the Consultative Group Meeting of Senior Experts Preparatory to the Ministerial Conference on Space Applications for Development in Asia and the Pacific, held in March 1994; (b) the Department of Human Services and Health, which had contributed $A 50,000 for the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 1993-2002; (c) the Federal Bureau of Consumer Affairs, which had contributed $A 30,000 for Commission resolution 48/7 on guidelines for consumer protection adopted by the Commission in 1992; and (d) the Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics, for the mineral resources database. Relationships had also been developed with Flinders University in Adelaide, on population studies, the National Centre for Development Studies at the Australian National University in Canberra, on development studies, and the Australian Chamber of Commerce, on trade development. He emphasized that those relationships and his Government's continuing funding of ESCAP projects were indicative of the high regard in which ESCAP and its activities had been held by his Government.

590. *Bangladesh*. The representative of Bangladesh announced the following contributions:

	US$
(a) APCTT	7,000
(b) CGPRT Centre	1,000
(c) SIAP	5,000
(d) RNAM	6,000

In addition, Bangladesh would contribute US$ 15,000 to APDC.

591. *Brunei Darussalam*. The representative of Brunei Darussalam announced the following contributions:

	US$
(a) SIAP	5,000
(b) Pacific Trust Fund	1,000

In addition, a contribution of US$ 10,000 would be made to APDC. His Government had earlier contributed US$ 10,000 towards the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons.

592. *China*. The representative of China reiterated the importance his Government had attached to the cooperation programme with ESCAP. He announced the following contributions:

(a) ESCAP programme of work for China-ESCAP Cooperation Projects	Y 750,000
(b) ESCAP programme of work for China-ESCAP Cooperation Projects (including US$ 40,000 for the ESCAP TCDC supplementary fund and US$ 10,000 for the Pacific Trust Fund)	US$ 150,000
(c) Regional institutions:	
APCTT	US$ 15,000
SIAP	US$ 21,000

In addition, China would contribute US$ 50,000 to CCOP, US$ 50,000 to APDC, and US$ 12,000 and Y 400,000 to the Typhoon Committee. The total intended contribution in 1994 would thus amount to US$ 298,000 and Y 1,150,000. The intended contribution to the ESCAP programme of work under the China-ESCAP Cooperation Projects represented an increase of 36 per cent in respect of the yuan renminbi contribution and 25 per cent in respect of the dollar contribution.

593. *Democratic People's Republic of Korea*. The representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea announced that his Government would contribute W 20,000 to the ESCAP programme of work in 1994.

594. *France*. The representative of France said that the amount of its contributions to ESCAP was higher than that given to other regional commissions. His Government had started to provide technical assistance in key areas of development, with the emphasis on programmes for training, information, technical consultations and economic studies. That assistance included the secondment of experts, training and monetary assistance to specific activities. With regard to transport, initiatives were mainly in the areas of multimodal and river transport. His Government also supported the Trans-Asian Railway. With regard to energy, the Government of France had seconded an expert to the Regional Energy Development Programme in Bangkok for studies on gas and electricity. With regard to urbanization, it had contributed to the Ministerial Conference on Urbanization in Asia and the Pacific. It had seconded an expert to the Human Settlements Section. In the area of trade, a specialist in customs management might soon be seconded to the International Trade and Economic Cooperation Division. Special efforts had been made in the area of agriculture: three experts were in Bogor, Indonesia, where they were contributing to studies in agricultural development being carried out at the CGPRT Centre. France had contributed to the preparation of the Ministerial Conference on Space Applications for Development in Asia and the Pacific, to be held in Beijing in September 1994. It was cooperating with ESCAP/POC in Port Vila through the secondment of an expert on economic planning. An expert would soon join the Mekong Secretariat to carry out studies on river navigation. The amount of extrabudgetary assistance earmarked for ESCAP would be at about the same level as in 1993 (about 10 million francs, or about 1,725,000 dollars).

595. *India*. The representative of India announced the following intended contributions for 1993:

	US$
(a) APCTT	100,000 (in national currency) (1994)
(b) SIAP	15,000 (1993)
(c) RNAM	15,000 (1993/94)
(d) CGPRT Centre	5,000 (1994)
(e) Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons	50,000

In addition, his Government would contribute US$ 55,000 to APDC (1993).

596. *Indonesia*. The representative of Indonesia appealed for increased support from members and other donor countries as well as multilateral funding and financial institutions to ESCAP activities and regional institutions, and announced the following contributions:

(a) APCTT	US$ 15,000
(b) CGPRT Centre	Rp 136.61 million (equivalent to approximately US$ 68,000)
(c) SIAP	US$ 40,000
(d) RNAM	US$ 15,000
(e) Pacific Trust Fund	US$ 5,000

In addition, Indonesia would contribute US$ 47,300 to APDC and US$ 50,000 to CCOP. The total intended contribution in 1994 would thus amount to approximately US$ 246,300.

597. *Islamic Republic of Iran*. The representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran announced that his Government would contribute US$ 15,000 to the ESCAP programme of work in 1994.

598. *Japan*. The representative of Japan informed the Commission that his Government would continue to provide expert services on a non-reimbursable loan basis and to fund 63 fellowships at SIAP through JICA. In addition, the Government would increase its contribution to the Japan-ESCAP Cooperation Fund substantially, from US$ 2.2 million in 1993 to US$ 3.2 million in 1994, and would contribute US$ 1,527,500 in cash and US$ 2.44 million in kind to SIAP in 1994. His Government would also contribute US$ 285,000 for institutional and programme support to the CGPRT Centre in 1994. The total cash contribution to the Japan-ESCAP Cooperation Fund, SIAP and the CGPRT Centre in 1994 would thus amount to US$ 5,012,500.

599. *Lao People's Democratic Republic*. The representative of the Lao People's Democratic Republic stated that as his country was one of the least developed land-locked countries, it would like to appeal to donors and funding agencies to increase their contribution to the activities of ESCAP which were beneficial to the least developed countries. His Government would make a token contribution to ESCAP at the same level as that in 1993.

600. *Malaysia*. The representative of Malaysia announced the following contributions:

	US$
(a) APCTT	10,000
(b) SIAP	10,000
(c) Pacific Trust Fund	1,000

In addition, Malaysia would contribute US$ 46,200 (as annual contribution) and 440,000 Malaysian ringgits to APDC (as annual grant).

601. *Myanmar*. The representative of Myanmar announced that the intended contribution of his Government to the ESCAP programme of work for 1994 would be US$ 2,000, the same as in 1993.

602. *Nepal*. The representative of Nepal announced the following contributions:

	US$
(a) ESCAP programme of work	2,492
(b) APCTT	1,000
(c) CGPRT Centre	500
(d) SIAP	1,000

The contributions to APCTT and SIAP in 1994 represented an increase of 67 per cent and 100 per cent over the 1993 levels, respectively. In addition, his Government would contribute US$ 3,000 to APDC.

603. *The Netherlands*. The representative of the Netherlands stated his Government's appreciation of the activities of ESCAP, which had resulted in the establishment of a new financing arrangement effective January 1994. His Government would make cash contributions of f. 3 million, equivalent to approximately US$ 1.6 million, to ESCAP in 1994 to finance projects to assist developing members and associate members of ESCAP in dealing with priority issues in the area of economic and social development. He reiterated the full support of his Government to the programme of work of ESCAP.

604. *Pakistan*. The representative of Pakistan announced the following contributions:

	US$
(a) APCTT	5,000
(b) SIAP	8,000
(c) RNAM	12,000 (for phase IV)

In addition, Pakistan would contribute US$ 30,000 to APDC.

605. *Papua New Guinea*. The representative of Papua New Guinea announced that his Government would contribute US$ 5,000 to the CGPRT Centre and US$ 10,000 to the Pacific Trust Fund.

606. *The Philippines*. The representative of the Philippines announced that his Government would make the following contributions:

	US$
(a) CGPRT Centre	5,000
(b) RNAM	6,545
(c) SIAP	9,672
(d) APCTT	10,909

In addition, his Government would contribute US$ 21,818 to CCOP and US$ 70,909 to APDC in 1994.

607. *Republic of Korea*. The representative of the Republic of Korea announced the following intended cash contributions:

	US$
(a) Republic of Korea-ESCAP Cooperation Fund	500,000
(b) APCTT	10,000
(c) CGPRT Centre	20,000
(d) SIAP	20,000
(e) RNAM	20,000

His Government would continue to provide the services of nine experts on a non-reimbursable loan basis, seven of whom would be assigned to the ESCAP secretariat and one each to the CGPRT Centre and ESCAP/POC. His Government's contribution to APDC and CCOP would be announced later at their respective general

conferences. The contribution to the Republic of Korea-ESCAP Cooperation Fund for 1994 represented an increase of US$ 100,000, or 25 per cent, over the 1993 level.

608. *Russian Federation.* The representative of the Russian Federation announced that his Government, in cooperation with UNDP and other organizations, intended to host a seminar on the use of space data for environmental monitoring and management, and another on urbanization in the North-East Asian region. Information had been given on 9 institutes and 55 technical schools in the Russian Federation which could participate on a mutually beneficial basis in training railway personnel of countries in the region. His Government had taken practical steps to establish cooperation with APCTT and had, during the current session of the Commission, signed an agreement on cooperation between APCTT and the Russian House for International Scientific and Technological Cooperation. With the acceptance of Armenia as a member of the Commission, there were now eight countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States. His Government was considering the feasibility of holding some activities within the programme of work of ESCAP for the benefit of those countries.

609. *Solomon Islands.* The representative of Solomon Islands indicated that his Government would contribute US$ 2,000 for the Pacific Trust Fund in 1994.

610. *Sri Lanka.* The representative of Sri Lanka announced the following contributions for 1994:

	US$
(a) APCTT	5,000
(b) CGPRT Centre	10,000
(c) SIAP	5,000

In addition, Sri Lanka would contribute US$ 27,500 to APDC.

611. *Tajikistan.* The representative of Tajikistan reiterated the great interest of his Government in the programme of work of ESCAP. As soon as the current economic recession in Tajikistan abated, his Government would consider making contributions to ESCAP.

612. *Thailand.* The representative of Thailand announced the following contributions:

	US$
(a) APCTT	15,000
(b) CGPRT Centre	30,000
(c) SIAP	13,000
(d) RNAM	15,000
(e) Pacific Trust Fund	1,000

His Government's intended contribution to the CGPRT Centre represented an increase of 100 per cent over its contribution in 1993. In addition, Thailand would contribute US$ 40,000 to APDC, US$ 40,000 to CCOP and US$ 12,000 to the Typhoon Committee in 1994.

613. *Macau.* The representative of Macau announced that her Government would contribute US$ 15,000 to SIAP.

614. *New Caledonia.* The representative of New Caledonia announced that his Government would contribute CFPF 500,000, equivalent to US$ 5,000, for the Pacific Trust Fund in 1994.

615. *Germany.* The representative of Germany reiterated the continued support of his Government to ESCAP through the funding of specific technical cooperation projects in selected priority areas of the ESCAP programme of work. His Government had earlier committed additional assistance amounting to DM 3 million to ESCAP in 1994 for technical cooperation projects in the four agreed areas of cooperation: the regional transport network; the promotion of industrial development and trade; the improvement of agricultural production by means of specific extension measures in the areas of fertilizer marketing and distribution; and technology transfer.

616. *United Nations Development Programme.* The representative of UNDP made reference to document E/ESCAP/973, which summarized the major initiatives of UNDP at the country, subregional and regional levels within the ESCAP region in the main areas of sustainable development/poverty alleviation, economic reform and governance, and the environment, as well as other issues, such as aid coordination, experience with decentralization, the programme approach, national execution, and new modalities such as regional capacity-building, partnership with NGOs and global networking. She informed the Commission that the resources available for the fifth cycle intercountry programme of UNDP (1992-1996) for the Asian and Pacific region had been further reduced from US$ 75 million for regionwide programmes (apart from subregional ones) to US$ 50 million, owing to the global political and economic situation, particularly the recession in many traditional donor countries of UNDP, the imperative to aid the new countries and the diversion of some development aid resources to peace-keeping missions. Of the US$ 50 million, approximately US$ 15 million had been earmarked for ESCAP, representing about 30 per cent of the resources for the regionwide intercountry programme. For 1994, UNDP would be providing almost US$ 4.6 million for projects being executed by ESCAP, which included SIAP, the Urban Management Programme for Asia and the Pacific, remote sensing, energy and environment, projects in the fields of trade and development and transport and communications, APCTT, and the poverty alleviation programme. UNDP looked forward to continuing its cooperation

with ESCAP, not only in financial terms but also in other strategic partnerships.

617. The total pledges of contributions for 1994 made by 22 members and associate members and one observer State amounted to approximately US$ 14.36 million, comprising US$ 10.16 million in cash and an estimate of US$ 4.20 million in kind. The amounts did not include contributions announced for CCOP, APDC and the Typhoon Committee.

618. The Commission noted that the total pledges mentioned above did not include possible contributions from other member and donor countries which had made no announcement of intended contributions at the current session, or the value of several unquantified contributions pledged. In addition, extrabudgetary resources to be received from UNDP, UNFPA, other agencies of the United Nations system and other intergovernmental organizations for ESCAP-executed projects were not reflected in the total pledges.

619. The Commission noted that several developing as well as least developed countries had enhanced their contributions to the three regional institutions and RNAM.

620. The Executive Secretary expressed appreciation to members, associate members, donor countries and UNDP for announcing their intended contributions to the ESCAP programme of work, regional institutions and special regional projects, which indeed symbolized their commitment and support to ESCAP. He appealed to the more advanced developing countries to consider establishing a cooperation fund with ESCAP along the lines of the Republic of Korea-ESCAP Cooperation Fund and the China-ESCAP Cooperation Projects in promoting the spirit of the TCDC concept, which would greatly assist the secretariat in its formulation of extrabudgetary technical cooperation activities in the future.

Activities of the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission

621. The Commission had before it documents E/ESCAP/970 and E/ESCAP/970/Add.1 containing the report of the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission. It expressed appreciation of the report, which had been prepared by the rapporteur of the Advisory Committee, the representative of the Netherlands.

622. Since the forty-ninth session of the Commission, ACPR had held nine regular sessions and two informal meetings, at which it had discussed the following:

(a) Review of the forty-ninth session of the Commission;

(b) Plan of implementation of resolutions and major decisions of the Commission;

(c) Tentative work plan of ACPR, 1993/94;

(d) Follow-up to Commission resolution 48/2 of 23 April 1992 on restructuring the conference structure of the Commission, and General Assembly resolution 46/235 of 13 April 1992 on restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields;

(e) Review of the implementation of the programme of work of ESCAP;

(f) Preparations for and review of the following intergovernmental meetings:

(i) Committee on Poverty Alleviation through Economic Growth and Social Development, first session;

(ii) Committee on Environment and Sustainable Development, first session;

(iii) Steering Group of the Committee for Regional Economic Cooperation, third meeting;

(iv) Ministerial Conference on Urbanization in Asia and the Pacific;

(v) Committee on Transport and Communications, first session;

(vi) Steering Group of the Committee for Regional Economic Cooperation, fourth meeting;

(vii) Committee for Regional Economic Cooperation, third session (preparations only);

(g) Preparations for the fiftieth session of the Commission;

(h) Preparations for the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations;

(i) Report on the programme budget, 1994-1995;

(j) Proposed programme changes: programme of work and priorities, 1994-1995;

(k) Revision of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997;

(l) Calendar of meetings, April 1994-March 1995;

(m) Progress report on implementation of resolutions and other decisions of the Commission;

(n) Priority-setting;

(o) End-of-biennium report on the implementation of the programme of work, 1992-1993;

(p) Provisions for the continuation of the work of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (SIAP).

623. The Commission expressed appreciation of the activities carried out by ACPR. In particular it appreciated its efforts in:

(a) Following up the implementation of Commission resolution 48/2 on restructuring the conference structure of the Commission, and General Assembly resolution 46/235 on restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields;

(b) Revising the criteria for priority-setting which had been endorsed in 1983;[1] and facilitating deliberations at the current session of the Commission and thereby contributing to its expeditious conclusion.

624. The Commission noted that ACPR played an important role in maintaining liaison and advising the secretariat. It provided members and associate members with a regular forum and an opportunity for coordination and consensus-building and constructive interaction with the secretariat in its efforts to expand regional cooperation. The Commission also noted various constructive suggestions made towards enhancement of the role of ACPR *vis-à-vis* the secretariat. It acknowledged the active cooperation and transparency demonstrated by the secretariat during the past year.

625. The Executive Secretary reiterated his appreciation of the important role of and the wise counsel provided by ACPR, and of the usefulness of the monthly sessions in making ESCAP more responsive to the needs and aspirations of its members and associate members. While acknowledging with gratitude the constructive spirit and valuable guidance of ACPR, the Executive Secretary expressed the hope that its membership could be expanded and that there could be more active participation in the deliberations at its monthly sessions.

626. The Commission further noted the continuing role of ACPR in the evolution of the thematic programme of work.

627. It endorsed the following revised priority-setting criteria, as formulated by ACPR.

Programme planning: criteria for priority-setting

(1) Bearing in mind the role of the regional commissions within the United Nations system, the selection of activities for inclusion in the ESCAP programme of work should reflect the following general considerations:

(a) The activity must be one which ESCAP, as one of the United Nations regional commissions, has been authorized to implement by the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council, or a relevant United Nations global conference;

(b) It must be an activity consistent with the role of ESCAP, as a regional commission and the main general economic and social development centre within the United Nations system in the region;

(c) In view of the multidisciplinary advantage enjoyed by ESCAP, it should take into account the necessity of coordinating activities in the field of social and economic development among specialized agencies or other organs of the United Nations, as well as other international organizations. While coordinated and complementary activities in the same field may be desirable, duplication of specific activities must be avoided.

(2) The following criteria shall be used for setting the relative priorities among the activities under the ESCAP programme of work:

(a) *Major importance to developing countries of the region*

The activity should:

(i) Facilitate greater participation of the poorest sections of the population in economic activities, in particular income-generating activities, thereby alleviating poverty and promoting an equitable distribution of the benefits of growth;

(ii) Enhance development of human resources and national capabilities in this regard;

(iii) Where relevant, facilitate transfer of appropriate technology;

(iv) Be planned and conducted, where appropriate, in consultation with national institutions, local groups and associations, and the communities it will affect;

(v) Be environmentally friendly and compatible with or promotive of sustainable use of natural resources;

(vi) Contribute to the strengthening of cooperation among developing countries of the region;

(vii) Address the problems and respond to the needs of the least developed countries, land-locked developing countries, Pacific island developing countries and/or the countries in transition to a market economy.

[1] See the report of the Commission on its thirty-ninth session (*Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Supplement No. 12* (E/1983/43-E/ESCAP/341)), para. 339.

(b) *Promotion of regional and subregional cooperation*

The activity should:

(i) Have a regional impact and respond to specific regional needs;

(ii) Seek to translate successful policies and experiences from one part of the region to another;

(iii) Promote subregional and intra-subregional cooperation among ESCAP member States.

(c) *Support from member countries*

The activity should have received strong and specific support at a meeting of the Commission, its subsidiary organs or an ad hoc ministerial meeting. From time to time, the Commission will choose new, emerging issues for emphasis; preference should be given to activities which follow these Commission mandates.

(d) *Efficient use of resources*

The activity should be in areas:

(i) Where ESCAP has comparative advantage in relation to other international, national or private sector organizations;

(ii) Which will have the greatest impact in relation to their costs.

Date, venue and any other subject pertaining to the fifty-first session of the Commission

628. The Commission had before it document E/ESCAP/971. It decided that its fifty-first session would be held in Bangkok in March or April 1995. The Executive Secretary, in consultation with the member Governments and the Chairperson, would determine the exact dates of the session and inform the members and associate members of the Commission accordingly.

629. The representative of Thailand informed the Commission that Thailand would be happy to welcome and receive participants in Bangkok once again and expressed its readiness to extend appropriate hosting support to facilitate the holding of successive sessions of the Commission at the United Nations Conference Centre in Bangkok as far as possible, to maximize the utilization of that Conference Centre, which had been built at very high cost and paid for by the United Nations member countries, and was equipped with a full range of facilities.

630. The Commission decided that the theme topic of the fifty-first session of the Commission would be "Strengthening of regional cooperation in human resources development with special reference to the social implications of sustainable economic growth in Asia and the Pacific".

Adoption of the report of the Commission

631. The Commission adopted the draft report at its 758th meeting on 13 April 1994.

Chapter IV

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE COMMISSION AT ITS FIFTIETH SESSION

50/1. Delhi Declaration on Strengthening Regional Economic Cooperation in Asia and the Pacific towards the Twenty-first Century[1]

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

On the occasion of its historic fiftieth session,

Cognizant that the imperatives of geography, history, culture, economics and politics are fast reinforcing a distinct regional identity and that new wide-ranging and extensive relationships have been developed and are continually emerging between and among countries in the Asian and Pacific region,

Reaffirming the common commitment to the goal of sustainable development as well as to the development of the socio-economic infrastructure necessary for sustaining the growth momentum evidenced in the Asian and Pacific region and for effectively addressing the need to attain a better quality of life for the peoples of the region,

Noting the great dynamism and inherent vitality of the Asian and Pacific region, which have enabled it to attain some of the highest growth rates in the world in the recent past,

Recognizing that the prevalence of conditions of peace and stability are essential prerequisites for enhancing regional and subregional cooperation for sustainable development,

Acknowledging the growing interdependence between the economies of the region and the shared interest of all in promoting equitable distribution of the fruits of economic and social development for the benefit of all,

Taking into account the coexistence in the region of economies at vastly different stages of development and the need to ensure a wider dispersion of the benefits of economic progress accruing to this region,

Aware of the complementarities among economies in the region arising from the diversity of endowments of capital, technological and other resources, both natural and human, and of the importance of intensifying regional cooperation with a view to realizing fully the potential of these resources,

Considering the opportunities offered by a convergence of macroeconomic policies as well as the strong trends towards deregulation, liberalization and structural reform in a growing number of economies in the ESCAP region,

Acknowledging the important contribution of organizations and groupings for subregional cooperation towards developing and strengthening inter-subregional and regionwide cooperation,

Taking into account the many opportunities and challenges arising from positive developments in the global economic situation, particularly the successful conclusion of the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations,

Conscious that regional cooperation can be a potent instrument for the realization of the benefits of an open multilateral trading system,

Emphasizing the need to combat protectionism and to avoid it assuming new forms that could pose a threat to the expansion of world trade and thereby jeopardize the gains of the Uruguay Round,

Recalling, inter alia, the historical development of economic cooperation in the Asian and Pacific region, with particular reference to the outcomes of the seventh session of the Commission in Lahore in 1951, the fourth session of the Meeting of the Council of Ministers for Asian Economic Cooperation in Kabul in 1970, the forty-seventh session of the Commission in Seoul in 1991, the forty-eighth session of the Commission in Beijing in 1992, and other relevant decisions of the Commission which provide policy direction for strengthening regional economic cooperation in Asia and the Pacific,

1. *Declares* that it will:

(a) *Further intensify* collective efforts for regional cooperation, including inter-subregional cooperation, to ensure that economic growth and social development spread across the Asian and Pacific region for the benefit of all its peoples;

(b) *Accord* high priority to the imperatives of economic cooperation, especially in trade, investment, technology transfer and tourism, in keeping with the Asian and Pacific ethos of mutual respect, accommodation and peaceful settlement of differences, so that the growth momentum evidenced in the region is sustained;

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[1] See para. 169 above.

(c) *Promote* the sharing and free flow of information and experience among economies of the region concerning development strategies and policies, as well as trade, technology and investment;

(d) *Launch* concerted efforts for the development of physical infrastructure, and accord due recognition to the transport and communication links required to facilitate regional trade and economic cooperation;

(e) *Promote* capital and technology flows within the Asian and Pacific region to facilitate sustainable development consistent with the varying needs and stages of economic and social development in the region;

(f) *Strengthen* cooperation in the area of human resources development, which is recognized as a crucial input for sustained development and, to this end, encourage the exchange of academics, professionals, scientists and technologists within the Asian and Pacific region;

(g) *Increase* efforts in support of the economic and social development of the least developed, land-locked and island developing countries of the region which face severe resource and infrastructure constraints;

(h) *Recognize* the special technical assistance needs of the disadvantaged economies in transition for facilitating their structural reform process and for assisting them in the process of their integration into the mainstream of the region's development process;

2. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to take into full account the present declaration, which shall be known as the Delhi Declaration on Strengthening Regional Economic Cooperation in Asia and the Pacific towards the Twenty-first Century, and to initiate appropriate action to review and recommend measures for further strengthening regional cooperation consistent with the emerging regional identity and for addressing more effectively the needs of the region towards the twenty-first century;

3. *Formally reaffirms* its political support for the achievement of the objective of regional economic cooperation in Asia and the Pacific, and invites members and associate members to devote greater national efforts towards that end;

4. *Requests* donor Governments and multilateral agencies to provide support to implement this important Declaration;

5. *Invites* the subregional organizations and relevant regional institutions to cooperate with the Executive Secretary in the implementation of the provisions of the Declaration;

6. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to report to the Commission at its fifty-first session on the implementation of the Declaration.

758th meeting
13 April 1994

50/2. Action plan on infrastructure development in Asia and the Pacific[2]

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 45/199 of 21 December 1990 on the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade, and 47/190 of 22 December 1992 on the report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development,

Recalling Commission resolution 236 (XL) of 27 April 1984 on the proclamation of the Transport and Communications Decade for Asia and the Pacific, 1985-1994, and General Assembly resolution 39/227 of 18 December 1984 by which the Assembly proclaimed the Decade,

Recalling Commission resolution 47/10 of 10 April 1991 on phase II of the Transport and Communications Decade for Asia and the Pacific, 1985-1994, in which the Commission reaffirmed the critical role of transport and communications in economic development and the importance, therefore, of the improvement and growth of transport and communications infrastructure and services in a manner commensurate with the anticipated growth of all sectors of the economy generating the demand for transport and communications, and General Assembly resolution 48/177 of 21 December 1993 on resource mobilization for the implementation of the regional action programme for phase II (1992-1996) of the Decade,

Recalling resolution 48/1 of 23 April 1992 on a declaration on enhancing regional economic cooperation, in which the Commission urged strongly that high priority in economic cooperation be given to the promotion of intraregional trade and investment, and greater cooperation in science and technology and the development of infrastructure,

Recalling also the decision of the Commission, at its forty-ninth session, that the theme topic for the fiftieth session should be "Infrastructure development as key to economic growth and regional economic cooperation", and that the theme study would focus on the deficiency in the physical infrastructure facilities and the resources required for addressing that deficiency as well as the measures needed to attract private investment for establishing infrastructure facilities,

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[2] See para. 192 above.

Recalling further that a study on the theme topic had been undertaken by the ESCAP secretariat and that the study was issued as a publication entitled *Infrastructure Development as Key to Economic Growth and Regional Economic Cooperation*,

Noting that the Commission at its current session has recognized four main areas for regional cooperation in infrastructure development: the sharing of experience and human resources development; the consideration of issues surrounding the mobilization of financial resources; the development of regional policy and the regulatory environment; and joint development of mutually beneficial infrastructure projects,

Recognizing that the lack of adequate infrastructure is acting as a severe constraint on the accelerated economic development of many of the economies of this region,

Recognizing also that the development witnessed in recent years in some of the other economies of the region has caused pressure on existing infrastructure and that forecasts for economic growth suggest that such pressure will continue,

Welcoming the recent initiatives for infrastructure development as well as for sharing the related experiences at the bilateral, multilateral or subregional levels, and emphasizing that such initiatives could bring optimal benefit to the region as a whole if they are in harmony with the overall context of regional infrastructure development,

Bearing in mind the necessity to assist the least developed, land-locked and island developing countries as well as the disadvantaged economies in transition in the development of their infrastructure,

Recognizing that owing to the magnitude of the investment required in infrastructure development, not only will the traditional ways in which finances are mobilized need to be improved and innovations made therein, but also complementary measures, including improvement in the means by which the infrastructure subsectors are administered and managed and increasing the role of the private sector, will need to be taken,

Recognizing also that experience in the development of infrastructure could be shared beneficially and that the impact of some major infrastructure projects in the region was already transcending national boundaries, thus creating demand for increased cooperation between countries of the region,

Further recognizing that the issues associated with sustainable development need to be addressed within the context of realistic long-term strategic plans for infrastructure development,

1. *Welcomes* the draft action plan on infrastructure development in Asia and the Pacific, annexed to the present resolution, as a constructive basis on which to develop a fully operational plan of action;

2. *Reiterates* the commitment and determination of its members and associate members to strengthen their infrastructure and to cooperate in improving subregional and regional infrastructure;

3. *Requests* the Steering Group of the Committee for Regional Economic Cooperation to deliberate further on the draft action plan with a view to examining it in detail;

4. *Also requests* the Committee to hold its fourth session immediately following the sixth meeting of the Steering Group to consider the revised text of the draft action plan as recommended by the Steering Group and further examine the priorities and modalities for its implementation;

5. *Invites* donor Governments and funding agencies to provide the requisite extrabudgetary resources to facilitate the participation of least developed and Pacific island countries and disadvantaged economies in transition in the deliberations of the Steering Group and the Committee;

6. *Requests* the Executive Secretary:

(a) To encourage the members of the Steering Group and the Committee to consider including representatives of the private sector in the national delegations, where appropriate, in the areas of financing, managing and constructing infrastructure facilities;

(b) To report to the Commission at its fifty-first session on the outcome of the deliberations of the Steering Group and of the Committee concerning the draft action plan;

(c) To submit to the Commission at its fifty-first session, for consideration and adoption, the revised text of the action plan, which shall be referred to as the New Delhi Action Plan on Infrastructure Development in Asia and the Pacific;

(d) To ensure the inclusion of those projects and activities embodied in the action plan in the medium-term plan of the Commission.

758th meeting
13 April 1994

Annex

DRAFT ACTION PLAN ON INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

Introduction

I. POLICY ISSUES

II. RECOMMENDATIONS AND PROPOSALS FOR ACTION

A. Action at the country level

Recommendations

1. Upgrading information as a basic resource for infrastructure planning
2. Measures aimed at modifying consumption patterns
3. Reform of the administration of infrastructure facilities
4. Ensuring that the existing infrastructure is capable of producing design output
5. Effective planning, prioritization and investment in quality infrastructure projects
6. Mobilization and allocation of public sector resources
7. Private sector participation
8. Equity and welfare — the essential tasks of government and workers in creating the framework
9. Human resources development
10. Environmental impact of infrastructure development
11. Poverty alleviation, rural areas and disadvantaged population groups
12. Infrastructure needs of the least developed, land-locked, and island developing countries and the disadvantaged economies in transition

B. Action at the regional level

III. IMPLEMENTATION, PRIORITIES AND TIME-FRAME

Introduction

1. In responding to the Commission's directive, the secretariat has reported on the magnitude of the infrastructure deficiencies in its theme study,[a] as well as in document E/ESCAP/930, "Infrastructure development as key to economic growth and regional economic cooperation: summary". In the present annex, the main issues identified in the study are outlined and addressed through 12 recommendations and 40 proposals for action which, if implemented, will greatly enhance the potential contribution that the infrastructure sector can make towards social and economic development. Their implementation will also be effective in reducing the infrastructure requirement.

2. In formulating this action plan, the approach taken has been to set down a series of policy initiatives and actions which together form a framework that will increase the level of efficiency of the infrastructure sector, raise the level of confidence in the development process and thereby create an environment to attract the private sector to invest. The plan attempts to set forth a balanced approach with a focus on reducing waste and increasing the capacity of the existing infrastructure, with the objective of reducing the capital demand for new infrastructure. While it is recognized that this will not be an easy path for Governments to follow, it is fundamental to increased efficiency and economic growth. To assist Governments in implementing this approach, proposals for action have been suggested to put in place the fundamental requirements for partnership between government, management, labour, the private sector, donors and international organizations in the development of the infrastructure sector.

3. To support the action at the country level, recommendations are also made for regional action designed to facilitate and augment the commitment and determination of the Governments of the region to cooperate and work together to strengthen the national, subregional and regional infrastructure.

4. In the process of undertaking the research for the study, a number of policy issues that require consideration were identified. The following is a brief overview of these issues.

I. POLICY ISSUES

5. In the theme topic study on infrastructure it has been estimated that between now and 2000, around US$ 1,500 billion will be required for infrastructure development in the developing countries of the ESCAP region. Of this total, US$ 500 billion was identified as available or already committed. The financial gap therefore amounts to around US$ 1,000 billion. It is most likely that this is an understatement, as, for example, detailed estimates for rehabilitation work have not been included. These estimates include some allowance for increase in efficiency; however, the study has also shown that there is considerable scope for further improvement in productivity. It is unlikely that sufficient funds will be found to close the infrastructure gap and consequently complementary measures in the area of improving efficiency will need to be adopted in order to speed up the process.

[a] *Infrastructure Development as Key to Economic Growth and Regional Economic Cooperation* (ST/ESCAP/1364).

6. The principal policy issues arising out of the study relate to administration, management and finance; however, any action taken in one or more of these areas raises further policy issues. Similarly, many actions considered in the context of one particular issue can also be applied to other issues. For example, private sector participation to assist in funding may also assist in improving efficiency.

7. In broad terms, the policy issues fall into three main categories: those associated with the administration and management of infrastructure facilities; those associated with finance; and those which are consequent on or directly associated with infrastructure development. The text below follows this order.

Information

8. One of the initial findings of the study is that the quality of information concerning existing infrastructure, its condition and availability, the efficiency with which it is used, the underlying demand and the cost of providing it varies across countries. As a result, there are many cases in which there is insufficient information to make the important resource allocation decisions.

Administration

9. The means by which infrastructure subsectors are administered are widely regarded as a major impediment to the efficient provision and operation of these services and facilities. Typical obstacles include regulation of prices, controls on maintenance and investment decisions, inability to retain profits, responsibility for the provision of various welfare services and facilities, lack of public sector funds for investment and inability to attract or retain qualified staff.

Coordination

10. Within many infrastructure subsectors there is a lack of coordination between the various ministries and departments involved in the decision-making process. This slows down the implementation of infrastructure development. The problem is compounded when coordination is required with other ministries and departments outside the subsector. For example, transport planning and land-use planning should be part of an integrated process; in many instances, this is not the case. Consequently, policies that address these questions of "internal" and "external" coordination need to be considered and implemented.

Pricing

11. The regulation of prices almost invariably means that they are lower than the cost of providing the services and facilities of the infrastructure subsector's output. In addition, there is a considerable time-lag between the application for a price increase and the granting of the necessary permission. This underpricing of infrastructure facilities has two main effects: first, resources are used inefficiently, and second, there are insufficient funds for the self-financing of the infrastructure subsectors — in fact, some infrastructure subsectors have been a major drain on public sector funds.

Operating efficiency

12. Some of these public sector losses could be reduced with more efficient management and operation of the facilities. While a number of initiatives have been taken in the direction of developing corporate planning approaches to management and, in some subsectors, implementing management information systems, management procedures are outdated and in urgent need of major upgrading. Without such performance-oriented procedures, it is difficult for management to locate the areas within the organization in which major losses are occurring and the sources of low productivity levels.

13. Cross-country and sensitivity analyses show that significant improvements can be made in the operating efficiency of infrastructure facilities, thereby reducing the infrastructure financing requirement significantly.

Maintenance

14. Maintenance is another area which has been seriously neglected in the infrastructure subsectors. There is an important trade-off between capital and maintenance expenditure; significant savings can be made in overall expenditure through adequate allocations to and effective management of maintenance activities.

15. One of the causes of low productivity and inattention to maintenance is that the planning system in most countries is oriented towards capital formation at the expense of production management. Consequently, attention needs to be directed towards placing greater emphasis on post-implementation operation and maintenance.

Planning

16. As adequate funds to close the infrastructure gap are not available, attention must be focused on the planning agencies' role in setting priorities for national development. The current manifestations of the inadequate provision of infrastructure facilities in countries of the region strongly suggest that reviews of the planning process are also required in this area.

Public sector financing

17. The financing of infrastructure development has been primarily in the domain of the public sector. The magnitude of the financing task, coupled with various institutional and policy considerations, largely dictates that a substantial proportion of this finance will continue to be derived from the public sector. The principal sources of these funds are domestic resources and self-financing.

18. Analysis of the fiscal regimes in countries of the region indicates that there is still appreciable room for increasing government revenue through widening and deepening the tax base. At the same time, fiscal instruments can be better designed and innovations, such as value-added taxation, can be introduced more widely. The issue of importance to the infrastructure sector relates again to the allocation of increased revenue to the sector.

Private sector participation

19. Private sector participation is a partial solution to some of the problems arising in the infrastructure sector, for example through the provision of funds outside of the government budget, the implementation of changes to improve efficiency, and the transfer of technology and management. However, a prerequisite to such participation is a favourable investment climate: this is composed of many elements, including the legal framework for private sector involvement, trade facilitation measures, and macroeconomic stability — especially in relation to prices and exchange rates, and financing costs and arrangements. In inviting private sector participation, Governments will be required to address these elements.

20. From an administrative and legal point of view, the process of involving the private sector is complex. For example, the principle of a build-operate-transfer (BOT) contract is one of risk-sharing, and thus there are a large number of agreements to be made between the principal project company and the responsible government agency, contractors, insurers, operators, lenders, trustee banks and shareholders. These contracts have to be carefully drawn up and implemented in order to ensure that the proposed activities are feasible and in the public interest. Many countries of the region have limited experience in these aspects of private sector participation.

Facilitation and regulation of private sector participation

21. In a number of countries, private sector participation, especially in the form of BOT, is viewed as the answer to infrastructure development. However, long lists of projects with the comment "suitable for BOT" are not generating the desired response. In this respect, consideration needs to be given to the preparation of project proposals from the perspective of the private sector investor.

22. The experience of privatization outside the region suggests that for the infrastructure sector, public monopolies have simply been replaced by private monopolies. As a result, the role of government has changed from active participant to facilitator and regulator of the area of involvement of the private sector. This has been the experience of privatization in, for example, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, where public monopolies have been replaced by a private sector controlled by regulatory authorities.

Equity and efficiency

23. The practice of using the infrastructure subsectors as instruments of general socio-economic policy has confused the questions of efficiency and equity. A minimum requirement of any management information system established within an infrastructure subsector is that the cost of meeting such obligations be identified clearly.

24. If it is decided to introduce pricing reforms and to improve productivity, careful consideration needs to be given at the policy formulation stage to the impact on the members of society directly affected by such reforms.

Poverty alleviation

25. The structural changes associated with economic development place considerable pressure on specific groups within the community and the impact tends to vary widely from region to region. In the long term, human resources development is a key to redressing many of these inequalities. In the short term, however, policies need to be adopted which will mitigate the impact of the changes and facilitate sustainable economic development. In this respect, the development of infrastructure has a role to play in, for example, increasing the contribution of women to sustainable economic development, reducing farm-to-market transport costs, providing the basic facilities required to reduce the regional concentration of industrial development, and providing easier access to education and employment opportunities.

Environment

26. The development and operation of infrastructure facilities can have a major impact on the environment. There is a spectrum of policies which can be adopted in an attempt to mitigate these effects, ranging from unconstrained freedom to exploit the environment to a total ban on the offending activity. In the face of the evidence, both ends of the spectrum are untenable. The policy issue for consideration is the means of reducing to acceptable levels the adverse environmental impact of infrastructure development.

Least developed, land-locked and developing island countries and the disadvantaged economies in transition

27. To date, expenditure on infrastructure in many least developed, land-locked and developing island countries has been underwritten almost wholly by substantial inflows of official development assistance (ODA). Given the recurrent requirement for such assistance, there is a real danger of donor lethargy.

There is therefore urgent need for these countries to develop long-term strategies which demonstrate clearly the path the country is following towards sustainable development. In the disadvantaged economies in transition, infrastructure has not been adequately maintained or has been damaged and destroyed. In these countries, the major issue is the rehabilitation of infrastructure.

Multimodal transport

28. The provision of infrastructure for and development of efficient transport systems is essential for the development of a country's trade. For many countries of the region, especially the land-locked countries, this requires a number of different modes of transport, transit through third countries and border-crossings. Countries of the region need to consider integrated systems approaches to the transport of goods, multimodal transport, transit arrangements and facilitation of border-crossings.

Human resources development

29. The key role of human resources development is clear from the above outline of the main issues associated with infrastructure development: improved administration, operating efficiency, maintenance or coping with the introduction of private sector participation. In this respect, clear policies need to be developed to ensure that the full potential of human resources is realized.

Regional and subregional cooperation

30. Regional and subregional cooperation can play an important part in human resources development through transfer of expertise, skills, technology and knowledge, and exchange of experience in infrastructure planning, finance, development, management, and operation and maintenance. The major issue for consideration in this area relates to the strengthening and development of mechanisms whereby the potential benefits of these transfers and exchanges can be realized.

31. The bilateral development of infrastructure facilities in, for example, the power sector is providing a major source of revenue and has equipped a number of least developed countries with the potential to develop their manufacturing sector. Without bilateral cooperation, the projects would not have been feasible at the time they were undertaken. In addition, cooperation has facilitated the financing of the projects.

32. Trade has been the driving force behind the impressive growth performance of a number of countries in the region. The development of regional and subregional policies for land transport provides the opportunity for countries of the region to take advantage of this force. In view of the fact that the 11 land-locked countries of the region include least developed countries and disadvantaged economies in transition, the development of these linkages assumes even greater importance.

II. RECOMMENDATIONS AND PROPOSALS FOR ACTION

33. The following recommendations and proposals for action have been designed to focus development effort on addressing the major issues in the infrastructure sector. While the main responsibility for action will rest with the countries of the region, there is an important role for subregional and regional organizations in supporting initiatives and facilitating implementation through closer inter-agency cooperation. While the majority of the recommendations apply to all countries of the region, it is recognized that there will be exceptions.

A. Action at the country level

Recommendation 1. Upgrading information as a basic resource for infrastructure planning

Adequate information and accurate data are a prerequisite to the planning process, yet many countries have considerable problems in consolidating information on infrastructure facilities and future requirements in a consistent and coherent form. Infrastructure planning and construction have a long lead time which often extends beyond the duration of national five-year plans. There is need for more information and data on available infrastructure, its condition, the underlying demand, including the consumption of products and services, and the cost of providing these to the user community. With this valuable resource, Governments will be in a stronger position to formulate effective infrastructure development plans with long-term investment horizons and to have the requisite information to evaluate and deploy tools that will encourage more efficient consumption of the limited infrastructure output currently available.

Proposals for action

(1) Develop consistent and coherent infrastructure information resources on current capital stock, demand and the key indicators which can be employed in quantifying critical shortfalls in infrastructure capacity.

(2) Within each of the sectors using significant infrastructural facilities, identify and quantify the costs, both fixed and variable, of providing services and outputs to the user community.

(3) On the basis of the data and information referred to in (1) and (2) above, develop longer-term, perhaps rolling, investment plans which can provide a more effective framework for the prioritization of project implementation and investment planning.

Recommendation 2. Measures aimed at modifying consumption patterns

It is evident that the products and services generated by the available and already overstretched infrastructure are being consumed inefficiently or even wasted. It is the role of Governments to implement creative approaches to enlighten the user community and encourage it to make decisions which will, directly or indirectly, have a beneficial impact on the consumption of available and future output. Governments are slowly taking issues of pricing out of the political arena; however, for the majority of public sector agencies, operating subsidies and cross-subsidization still prevail. Decisions in this area, taken from a position of awareness, can lead to improved consumption patterns; however, the resulting distortion in the market can and often does lead to inappropriate decision-making by the user community.

Proposals for action

(4) Governments should review the application of subsidies and price-setting tools to encourage efficient usage of limited outputs and resources. These provide the clearest of signals to users, large and small, of the value of the output consumed and assist them in making decisions which will conform closely to the well-being of the country.

(5) Public awareness campaigns and marketing can be important vehicles for the Government in creating an informed community which will be more prepared to adjust consumption patterns in line with resource availability. These can be employed beneficially at all times and not just at times of crisis, such as in periods of drought (when they can be seen to be effective), to reduce wasteful consumption and even increase reserves.

(6) As a final resort, Governments may employ legislation, regulation or rationing to reduce consumption; however, with such firm action, which may be difficult to reverse and which can create shadow markets, there will always be a danger that the development process will be stifled.

Recommendation 3. Reform of the administration of infrastructure facilities

The creation of an effective decision-making framework for infrastructure development and operation can increase output efficiency in the infrastructure sector significantly. The administration of any country is slow to change. This is particularly true of the developing, and particularly the least developed countries of the region; yet the rapid pace of change in technology, economic climate and especially usage patterns requires a responsive environment. In addition, infrastructure *per se* transcends traditional ministerial boundaries. Bureaucracy, lack of delegation, unclear objectives and conflicting policies all have an adverse impact on the efficiency with which the infrastructure sector can perform. While there are some areas in which central government is required to retain a conspicuous controlling role, for example, coordination, policy planning, strategic considerations, environmental regulation and social well-being, there is an overwhelmingly strong case for the delegation of authority, decision-making and responsibility to lower levels which are involved more intimately in the operation of infrastructure assets.

Proposals for action

(7) Central government administrative controls and procedures should be reviewed and streamlined. Attention should be given to the interaction among, and increased coordination of infrastructure falling under the responsibility of different ministries which may complement each other or compete for users, but certainly compete for resources. Improved land-use planning will be an important component of this activity. A more responsive framework for decision-making and the delegation of authority to competent agencies and organizations should be encouraged within a coordinated plan of action.

(8) Governments should guide and assist the various agencies and organizations involved in infrastructure to evaluate their internal administrative practices and procedures with a view to identifying areas in which more commercial management practices could be associated with appropriate levels of autonomy.

(9) Consideration should be given to the metamorphosis of government agencies, or elements thereof, through a process of corporatization (by the transfer of assets and authority to a pseudo-private organization under public control) with internal responsibilities that mirror the private sector in terms of clearly defined financial and operational objectives along with decision-making authority, thereby removing some of the administrative inefficiency. Corporatization can be used as a stepping-stone to privatization.

Recommendation 4. Ensuring that the existing infrastructure is capable of producing design output

A wide range of examples exist of infrastructure projects which are now in operation at "maximum output" yet which fail to achieve a production capacity that is even close to the expectations in the original design. The reasons for this include outdated

management systems, inefficient operational practices and inadequate maintenance. Within the infrastructure sector, Governments and lending agencies tend to give priority to capital development. Thus the already inadequate budgets for investment in existing facilities are spread ever more thinly over an increasingly wider asset base.

Proposals for action

(10) Modern, performance-oriented management procedures should be instituted and supported by appropriate management reporting systems. They should include fully integrated quantified operational and financial objectives agreed between management and their controlling body. Full consideration should be given to computerization of the organization, and particularly information systems, to ensure timely reporting to support management in decision-making. Where management skills are weak or where transfer of technology is seen to be particularly beneficial, a management contract may provide the opportunity for increased efficiency.

(11) Operational practices should be reviewed. Particular attention should be given to areas where significant investment has been made, or is contemplated, in new technology and mechanization but where old chains of command, practices and manning levels remain and anticipated productivity gains have not materialized.

(12) Better planned, managed and financed maintenance will enhance the output of the infrastructure sector and increase the economic life of projects, reducing the costs of both product and new infrastructure demand. Adequate budgets should be provided for maintenance tasks and, where necessary, special hard currency funds should be released expeditiously. In appropriate circumstances, funds should be set aside for the modernization of existing infrastructure and facilities as a priority over new construction.

Recommendation 5. Effective planning, prioritization and investment in quality infrastructure projects

National planning agencies should be strengthened, more effective modalities institutionalized and tools provided which will establish clear and quantified guidance to assist in prioritizing projects and exposing the cost of politicizing investment decisions. It is well recognized that for the majority of disadvantaged countries there will remain a shortfall in funding for increased infrastructure capacity for at least the next few years. It is therefore vital that investment is made in the most deserving projects. While it is recognized that politics will always be a factor in the investment decision-making process, every effort must be made to demonstrate clearly benefit and cost flows through the project cycle in the hope that, presented with adequate information, decision makers will make the right choice and donors will be more confident that funds are being used judiciously.

Proposals for action

(13) Comprehensive information and data, in a consistent form, should be made available on all competing projects. This will provide the basis for effective prioritization of investment timing, perhaps with a distinction between projects which can be identified as being funded preferably by the public and private sectors, depending on projected economic and financial returns.

(14) Arrangements should be institutionalized which will create "transparency" in the investment decision-making process with the aim of minimizing irregularities and abnormalities. Mechanisms may include providing added strength to national planning agencies to assist them in minimizing political interference in the planning process and public debate of investment plans to minimize the potential for investment leakage.

(15) Computer tools should be developed and used to assist in the planning process. Such tools can assist in the financial and economic evaluation of benefits by providing a clear and comprehensive logical progression from projection through costs to benefits. They will also assist in the management and control of consultants by making assumptions more transparent and options more easily tested and enabling project data to be updated as situations change.

Recommendation 6. Mobilization and allocation of public sector resources

Attention needs to be devoted to the general question of public sector resource mobilization and the specific issues of the allocation of capital (or development) budget to the infrastructure subsectors; in addition, self-financing policies, including cost-saving measures, should be implemented. The magnitude of the infrastructure financing task, coupled with various institutional and policy consideration which demand a phased approach to implementation, largely dictate that a substantial proportion of infrastructure finance will continue to be derived from the public sector, at least in the medium term. The allocation of public sector resources to the infrastructure subsectors is inadequate and reveals no discernible pattern as regards optimum share or level. However, there is evidence and a broad

consensus to show that allocations are inadequate. It is also noted that far from being a source of non-tax revenue, a large number of these undertakings have been a net drain on the government budget. An examination of resource mobilization in countries of the region indicates that there is considerable room for increasing public sector revenue through widening and deepening the tax base.

Proposals for action

(16) Governments should devise financial and economic guidelines for the infrastructure subsectors. Such guidelines would incorporate a general principle that prices reflect the costs of providing the subsector's services and facilities. The guidelines should include a clear definition of the costs. Where, for social or other reasons, this is deemed not to be possible, the relevant costs and consumers should be clearly identified.

(17) Governments should review carefully the level of funds allocated to the infrastructure sectors, including the mechanism by which the funds are allocated, and ensure that at least minimum investment resources are available to cover operation and maintenance costs.

(18) Governments should review the means by which domestic resources are mobilized and, where appropriate, implement measures aimed at increasing such mobilization. In the area of fiscal policy, instruments can be better designed, innovations introduced and measures taken to reduce tax evasion. In the financial markets, there is scope for introducing or expanding the accessibility of financial institutions and introducing new financial instruments.

Recommendation 7. Private sector participation

The potential for increasing the role of the private sector in infrastructure financing, management, operations and risk-sharing should be explored so that it can make a greater contribution to national progress within the overall context of infrastructure development. The private sector is seen in many countries as the engine which has driven economic growth. It has access to financial resources, technical expertise and, sometimes, markets which the public sector alone may find difficult to exploit. It is claimed that under the right circumstances the private sector usually exhibits higher levels of productivity and cost efficiency than the public sector. With privatization of the existing infrastructure, Governments may also be able to raise capital, for priority projects, through the sale of assets.

Proposals for action

(19) Governments should identify the areas in which the private sector can participate beneficially in infrastructure investment, management and operations. Considerations will be founded on delineation of the particular problems that private sector participation is expected to overcome and the issues that will be raised if the policy is implemented. Factors such as national interests, the need for and level of retained control, labour reaction, projected financial returns on projects, the sharing of risks and the investment burden will need to be taken into account.

(20) Governments should create a climate that will attract the private sector to participate in infrastructure investment. This will involve, but not be restricted to, providing a legislative framework that safeguards national interests while providing the opportunity for flexible and responsive decision-making, and supports private ownership. Appropriate mechanisms should be enabled to allow discretionary redeployment of accrued profits and benefits.

(21) Governments and agencies should provide comprehensive details of projects for potential private sector financing, including projected returns on investment, both financial and economic. The availability of such information provides the basis for constructive dialogue between the public and the private sector.

(22) To create additional confidence, the public sector should take action to decrease the level of risk that the private sector will have to shoulder. In particular, within a project cycle, a process of pre-qualification of a reasonable number of competent firms should be adopted, thus minimizing waste and demonstrating government commitment.

(23) Governments should consider alternative forms of private sector participation which, under given circumstances and retained level of control, will provide alternative benefits, for example, in terms of technology transfer (management contract and long-term leasing), efficiency and reduced cost (corporatization and privatization), minimizing investment and government involvement (build-operate-transfer) and recovering sunk investments (privatization and the sale of assets).

Recommendation 8. Equity and welfare — the essential tasks of government and workers in creating the framework

Labour, government and management need to work together in resolving issues which will arise if improvements in productivity are to be attained and traditional labour markets reduced to a level that is in line with real demand. An underlying theme in the move towards economic development is increased

efficiency in production, which will lead to reduced employment opportunities in the traditional public sector enterprises. Many Governments are at present implementing policies within which State agencies are strongly encouraged to create employment and provide social welfare facilities, such as schools and hospitals. Yet this policy will have to change if action is taken to create additional capacity efficiently, whether infrastructure and operations are retained within the public domain or, in part, turned over to the private sector. Alternative forms of economic participation should be encouraged, including self-employment and entrepreneurship.

Proposals for action

(24) Labour should be involved as a full partner with government and management in the planning process. Given an equitable position, with appropriate safeguards and benefits, labour can play a vital role in promoting the development of infrastructure.

(25) Labour, government and management should together identify the real employment requirements of existing and planned infrastructure. Action should be taken to provide the opportunity for labour and management to move to alternative, non-traditional, employment through mechanisms such as two or more years' leave of absence with the security of guaranteed re-employment if necessary, or even the provision of grants for the establishment of small-scale enterprises.

(26) As the infrastructure sector becomes more efficient, effective social welfare schemes should be set in place which will respond to the needs of the less fortunate, who may not have employment opportunities or access to State agency schooling and hospitals.

Recommendation 9. Human resources development

Effective human resources development strategies and programmes to upgrade skills should be fully integrated into the infrastructure development process. The planning, design, operation and maintenance of infrastructure facilities all rely equally on the appropriate skills being available. Investment in human resources development is recognized as one of the fundamental and cost-effective factors contributing to economic growth. Additional resources should be focused on improving educational and training opportunities which will enhance capability in the infrastructure sector and can provide the opportunity for mobility of labour, thereby harnessing the strength of the often abundant human resources. In the short term, opportunities to explore alternative sources of expertise to strengthen capability and create the opportunity for technology transfer may be employed.

Proposals for action

(27) Guidelines for the integration of human resources development strategies into infrastructure development and their financing should be developed and implemented. Such guidelines should not just focus on the allocation of capital budget but encompass the continuing need for quality training and retraining to ensure that the needed skills are in place.

(28) A human resources development department should be established in each of the infrastructure subsectors with direct reporting to the highest authority in order better to develop and utilize the organization's personnel. The department should deal with human resources planning, career development and organizational development.

(29) The capability and capacity of educational institutions should be enhanced and reoriented to match the requirements in the infrastructure sector more effectively. Qualified instructors should be recruited, adequate facilities and equipment provided and institutes encouraged to develop curricula and deliver relevant courses, including those designed to prepare personnel for self-employment.

Recommendation 10. Environmental impact of infrastructure development

Infrastructure development can have a massive and irreversibly detrimental impact on the environment. It is the responsibility of Governments and their agencies to ensure that, irrespective of the scale of infrastructure projects, the impact on the environment is minimized. With growing competition and the search for least-cost production capability in the developing countries, appropriate environmental guidelines and standards must be established and monitored. These standards should be applied conscientiously in all project phases, including design, construction, operation and the residual impact. More effective modalities need to be put in place which can create the opportunity for the evaluation of the growing number of projects whose impact transcends national boundaries.

Proposals for action

(30) Environmental impact assessment should be mandatory for all projects in the infrastructure sector. Governments should review current environmental guidelines and standards.

(31) Adequate maintenance and improved management of existing infrastructure, which has already had an impact on the environment, should be given high priority as a means of extending economic life and minimizing the need for new building.

(32) The impact of existing infrastructure on the environment should be evaluated and, where appropriate, operating systems upgraded through the adoption of more environmentally friendly technologies.

Recommendation 11. *Poverty alleviation, rural areas and disadvantaged population groups*

The integration, with infrastructure, of effective regional policies will provide the opportunity for improved physical access while creating a wealthier community. The development of infrastructure can be equated directly with economic development and, potentially, job creation. In many countries the rural population is a significant part of the community, but has only restricted access to infrastructure services, which limits the role rural people can play in economic development and effectively prevents them from receiving basic services. The infrastructure sector has failed to explore the possibilities for involving disadvantaged population groups, particularly in rural areas where there exists considerable potential for their recruitment.

Proposals for action

(33) Governments should review regional planning policies and infrastructure sector employment potential which will create the opportunity for reducing the concentration of poverty.

(34) Special attention should be given to the development of infrastructure that will enhance the opportunity of the rural population to contribute to economic growth.

(35) Policies should be developed to encourage agencies and organizations to give serious consideration to the involvement of women and disadvantaged population groups and thereby explore alternative sources of expertise and broaden the base of the workforce.

Recommendation 12. *Infrastructure needs of the least developed, land-locked, and island developing countries and the disadvantaged economies in transition*

In the least developed, land-locked, and island developing countries and the disadvantaged economies in transition, special and significant problems exist which intensify the difficulties in providing adequate and efficient infrastructure. Owing to lack of investor confidence in some cases, many of these countries have to rely on ODA to underwrite investment in infrastructure. However, ODA is largely allocated on an annual basis, leading to annual fluctuations; sometimes the major focus is on capital investment, along with tied aid, rather than maintenance. In addition, some donors have started to question the effectiveness of ODA in countries where it would appear that it is having limited impact on economic progress. At the very basic level, there is a desperate need for spare parts, maintenance equipment and materials: this is only partly due to currency exchange regulations.

Proposals for action

(36) The least developed, land-locked, and island developing countries and the disadvantaged economies in transition can increase the confidence of donors by ensuring that investment resources, including ODA, are devoted to projects that contribute directly to increasing the pace of economic development. The implementation of administrative and management improvements, as set out in previous recommendations, should be of high priority in this process.

(37) Long-term strategic plans leading to sustainable economic development, with details of related national initiatives aimed at increasing efficiency, should be developed to provide a framework for assistance.

(38) Immediate attention should be given to the maintenance and rehabilitation of existing infrastructure so that it can perform the basic functions for which it was originally designed. Where necessary, special arrangements should be put in place for the expeditious release of the hard currency funds required for spare parts and materials.

(39) Policies designed to create "development concentration zones" should be considered with the objective of attracting investment. Industrial development zones, industrial estates and export processing zones have already been commissioned successfully in the region to provide enhanced levels of infrastructure and services to appropriate investors. This approach also allows Governments to be selective in focusing investment and job-creation opportunities so as to benefit specific communities.

(40) Approaches to provide improved access and transit arrangements, especially for land-locked countries, should be integrated into national infrastructure planning. Particular attention should be given to the facilities required at border-crossings.

B. Action at the regional level

34. While action at the country level is the responsibility of Governments, it can be facilitated by

action at the regional level. In addition, regional action can be cost-effective in assisting countries of the region in achieving their development objectives in terms of satisfactory levels of infrastructure development and performance. Action in support of national initiatives may include the provision of technical assistance, the development, at the regional level, of models and tools which may be applied in a number of countries at the national or project level, and the production and dissemination of training materials; regional research and development, including comparative studies which could form the basis of exchanges of experience and know-how; and coordination, cooperation and facilitation of development activities which will become more important as the impact of infrastructure projects increasingly transcends national boundaries. In particular, special focus will be required on the special training, information and other needs of those countries with the lowest levels of development.

35. Specific areas where regional cooperation can play a supportive or even catalytic role in development include the following:

Information/data collation and resource. To provide the basis for regional cooperation, technical cooperation among developing countries (TCDC), and research, information and data should be collected on a regional basis. This can assist in the identification of similar types of projects where information exchanges may be particularly useful, for example on technology, contract formulation and costs. In addition, details of educational and training opportunities across the region could be disseminated.

Comparative studies. Countries of the region are building valuable experience in the implementation of a wide range of initiatives, including public sector reform, implementation of improved management procedures, corporatization, joint ventures, privatization and development of industrial estates, which could provide a valuable resource for the region if properly evaluated and, where necessary, transformed into generalized guidelines.

Technical assistance. For all countries, and particularly the disadvantaged among them, there is need for technical assistance at all levels to support the infrastructure development process. Examples include advice on the drafting of terms of reference, project evaluation, improving management procedures and information systems, maintenance of infrastructure, procurement issues and computerization.

Development and dissemination of models and tools. Purpose-designed models, tools and software to assist Governments and agencies in undertaking their activities more efficiently can be cost-effective if developed at the regional level. Examples could include forecasting models which, taking into account competing and complementary developments across the region, could predict demand and investment requirements; financial and economic planning models designed to assist in the evaluation of investment projects; and management software, for which there is general demand, such as in the area of asset maintenance and control.

Identification of regionally significant projects. The impact of many significant infrastructure projects is now transcending regional boundaries. A perception of potential benefits and perspectives of the sharing of facilities, aligning routes and equitable cooperative arrangements between countries or subregions can be obtained at the regional level. Many examples exist in the railway (Trans-Asian Railway), road (Asian Highway), power, communications, water and port sectors, where regional-level involvement may be essential to effective planning. Such an approach could also strengthen the opportunities for growth triangles.

Facilitation. Facilitation at border-crossings can provide the opportunity for minimizing delays, costs and demand for infrastructure. With the growth of trade, the development of freight forwarding and the introduction of multimodal transport, all of which have an important international ingredient, inputs at the regional level are becoming increasingly important.

Human resources development. Training materials can be developed and delivered through training-of-trainer activities, seminars and workshops, as well as being distributed to national institutions. Networking of training and research institutions, initiated at the regional level, can complement and supplement capability. Action could also be taken to initiate intercountry exchanges of experts to bring practical knowledge and experience of the development process and provide on-the-job training.

Involvement of subregional organizations. Subregional organizations have an increasingly vital role to play within the infrastructure development context. They already provide a forum for consultation at the policy and technical levels, including coverage of infrastructure issues. This activity can usefully be extended to enhance cooperation among Governments, both mutually and through regional initiatives which can lead to cross-subregional collaboration.

Meetings of chief executives. Regional meetings should be held, at the chief executive level, in which discussions of topical issues should be initiated to assist in fostering a climate for closer collaboration and problem-solving through the sharing of experience. Examples of issues which would be covered in such meetings include pricing policy, technology developments, human resources development and new initiatives.

Inter-agency cooperation. Opportunities for increased collaboration between regional agencies, including ESCAP and ADB, should be enhanced through joint identification and, where appropriate,

carrying out studies, projects and activities. The implementation of phase II (1992-1996) of the Transport and Communications Decade for Asia and the Pacific has already demonstrated the potential benefits of closer collaboration in focusing development assistance and minimizing the duplication of activities.

III. IMPLEMENTATION, PRIORITIES AND TIME-FRAME

Implementation

36. Just as coordination and cooperation will be key factors in the effective implementation of plans and programmes at the national level in overcoming shortfalls in the infrastructure sector, they are particularly necessary among agencies and organizations, both within and outside the United Nations system, that are active in providing assistance to countries.

Priorities

37. The action plan promotes an integrated approach to addressing the issues of infrastructure development. Its 12 recommendations, 40 proposals for action at the country level and supporting regional action are, however, not comprehensive: they represent priority activities which together will significantly enhance the performance of the infrastructure sector. They will also reduce the investment "gap" by increasing output from existing infrastructure and demonstrating to potential donors the earnest efforts being made to create the right investment climate. In developing the action plan, special consideration has been given to the maximum utilization of available regional resources for the benefit of capacity-building.

38. Further delineation of these priorities within the overall framework of the action plan will follow the formulation of specific programmes and projects for implementation. Detailed priority-setting at the national level, and perhaps with regional assistance, will depend on a critical perception of the major constraints and shortcomings within the prevailing political and social context. Not all the recommendations will apply equally to all countries.

Time-frame

39. Preferably, action in implementation of the plan should begin immediately. It is, however, recognized that the proposed removal of the deeply rooted institutional obstacles to infrastructure development is not just a technical issue but involves a re-education process that will touch upon many sensitive areas. In addition, the lead time and scale of infrastructure projects dictate that, for the programme to be implemented in full, the concerted, coordinated efforts of countries and regional institutions will have to be brought to bear over the coming years through and beyond the new century.

50/3. Participatory human settlements development[3]

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling its resolution 268 (XLIV) of 20 April 1988 on shelter strategies towards the year 2000,

Recognizing the role of the Governments as facilitators of a comprehensive shelter delivery system with multisectoral participation, including the promotion of housing as a means of social intervention and a catalyst for economic activities and solution of problems of the low-income groups,

Convinced that sustainable development policies must, *inter alia*, address integrated concerns of the environment, including energy, water resources management and waste disposal, and human settlements,

Realizing that human settlements policies must be broad-based and form an integral part of development programmes and macroeconomic policies and that these programmes and policies have deep social implications,

1. *Adopts* the Regional Action Plan on Urbanization prepared by the Ministerial Conference on Urbanization in Asia and the Pacific, held in Bangkok on 1 and 2 November 1993, as a blueprint for urban development and improved urban management;

2. *Urges* members and associate members to encourage the active involvement of non-governmental and community-based organizations in the policy and strategy formulation process and in the implementation of shelter projects;

3. *Further urges* members and associate members to establish national- and local-level urban forums composed of representatives from the relevant departments and different levels of government, as well as the private sector, community associations and non-governmental organizations, to institutionalize the process of cooperation and collaboration in the formulation of urban action plans;

4. *Calls upon* members and associate members to involve all actors concerned with human settlements issues in their preparations for the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) to be convened in Istanbul, Turkey in 1996;

5. *Requests* members and associate members to explore the possibility of including, as part of their respective educational curricula, the subject of human settlements;

6. *Expresses* support for:

(a) Increased responsibilities to local governments in infrastructure construction and maintenance;

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[3] See para. 328 above.

(b) Adoption of a public housing finance system to which low- and middle-income families would have access in order to improve their homes;

(c) Expansion of the scope and coverage of community-based housing finance systems targeted at poor families;

(d) Monitoring at regular intervals of shelter sector performance through the housing indicators programme developed by the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) and the World Bank;

7. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to monitor and review the implementation of the Regional Action Plan on Urbanization on a biennial basis.

758th meeting
13 April 1994

50/4. Regional preparations for the Fourth World Conference on Women, 1995: Second Asian and Pacific Ministerial Conference on Women in Development, 1994[4]

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 48/108 of 20 December 1993 on implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women, and other relevant General Assembly resolutions, in particular resolutions 44/77 of 8 December 1989, 46/98 of 16 December 1991 and 47/95 of 16 December 1992,

Recalling also Commission resolution 46/6 of 13 June 1990 on the integration of women in all aspects of development, in which the Commission requested the Executive Secretary to convene in 1993 a regional intergovernmental meeting on women in development to review the progress achieved in Asia and the Pacific in implementing the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies and as a regional preparatory activity for the fourth world conference on women to be convened by the United Nations in 1995,

Recognizing with appreciation all preparatory activities undertaken by the Government of Indonesia for hosting the Second Asian and Pacific Ministerial Conference on Women in Development, to be held in Jakarta from 7 to 14 June 1994 and those activities undertaken by the Government of China for hosting the Fourth World Conference on Women, to be held in Beijing from 4 to 15 September 1995,

Noting the various recommendations of the Commission regarding the time-frame, provisional agenda and preparatory activities for the Ministerial Conference,

Considering the importance of improving the status of women in the family and society and enhancing their participation in development in all sectors and at all levels of activity at national, regional and global levels,

Also considering that the Asian and Pacific region is the home of the largest percentage of the world's population and consequently of the world's women, and that it has a rich variety of religions and cultures as well as levels of economic development,

Reaffirming the important role of the Commission in coordinating regional activities in the field of women in development and as the main general economic and social development centre within the United Nations system for the Asian and Pacific region,

Reiterating its invitation to all members and associate members to participate in the Ministerial Conference,

1. *Calls upon* members and associate members to undertake the necessary review and appraisal of the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women and prepare country reports which would serve as input for the regional and global review and appraisal of the Strategies;

2. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to ensure that:

(a) The draft plan of action, the most important basic document for the Second Asian and Pacific Ministerial Conference on Women in Development, is concise but comprehensive, identifies critical areas of concern to most countries in the region, lists measurable goals and strategic objectives to be achieved, as well as actions to be taken by Governments, non-governmental organizations, regional and international organizations and institutions;

(b) The preparation of the draft takes fully into account the views and concerns expressed by Governments, as well as the consensus reached on related matters, in the relevant forums of the United Nations and other intergovernmental bodies in the region, and also takes into consideration the views of experts expressed in the Expert Group Meeting on Women in Development held in Bangkok in February 1994, as well as the recommendations of the Asian and Pacific Symposium of Non-governmental Organizations on Women in Development, held in Manila in November 1993;

3. *Urges* members and associate members to ensure that they are represented at the highest levels at both the Meeting of Senior Officials on Women in Development and the Ministerial Conference;

4. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to present the regional action proposals emanating from the Ministerial Conference as the main Asian and Pacific

[4] See para. 347 above.

regional input into the Fourth World Conference on Women;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General of the Fourth World Conference on Women to provide the necessary substantive assistance for the success of the Ministerial Conference as a preparatory meeting for that Conference, and invites her to address the Ministerial Conference;

6. *Urges* donors, members and associate members of the Commission, as well as other funding agencies, to extend their assistance to facilitate the participation in the Ministerial Conference of all the least developed countries, the Central Asian republics in transition to a market economy, and the Pacific island developing countries;

7. *Encourages* all members and associate members of the Commission and organizations of the United Nations system to take part in the Exhibition on the Advancement of Women in the Asia-Pacific Region, which will be held in conjunction with the Ministerial Conference;

8. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to report to the Commission at its fifty-first session on the implementation of the present resolution and the results of the Second Asian and Pacific Ministerial Conference on Women in Development.

758th meeting
13 April 1994

50/5. Status of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific[5]

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Noting that the Asian Statistical Institute was brought into existence pursuant to chapter I, paragraph 2, of the Plan of Operation concluded on 1 May 1970 between the host Government, namely, the Government of Japan, the United Nations (acting through ESCAP as the executing agency), the United Nations Development Programme as the funding agency, and other participating Governments, on the basis of the Agreement of 9 September 1969 between the Government of Japan and the United Nations Development Programme concerning Assistance for the Establishment and Operation of the Asian Statistical Institute, itself concluded in response to resolutions 64 (XXII) of 31 March 1966 and 75 (XXIII) of 17 April 1967 adopted by the Commission,

Noting also that the Institute, since the entry into force of the above Agreement, has been functioning under the Plan of Operation dated 1 May 1970 and subsequent project documents concluded between the host Government, ESCAP as the executing agency, the United Nations Development Programme as the funding agency, and other participating Governments,

Noting further that through Commission resolution 175 (XXXIII) of 29 April 1977, the Asian Statistical Institute was renamed the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific in order to reflect the change of designation of the geographical area covered by the Commission,

Recalling its resolution 134 (XXIX) of 21 April 1973, strongly recommending that the Institute become a permanent organization and continue to function as a regional institution supported by the United Nations,

Recalling also the Commission's request for the continuation of the Institute's activities after its sixth phase ending on 31 March 1995, as well as the Commission's view, expressed at its forty-ninth session, held in Bangkok in April 1993, that the Institute should be constituted on a more permanent basis,

Noting the strong institutional and operational links that the Institute has had during the past twenty-four years with the various bodies of the Commission, and with the members and associate members of the Commission, with the result that the Institute operates, in practice, similarly to a subsidiary body of ESCAP servicing the Asian and Pacific region as a whole, and in particular the developing countries,

Expressing its deep appreciation to the Government of Japan, other participating Governments and the United Nations Development Programme for their generous and continuing financial assistance to the Institute since its inception in May 1970,

Noting with satisfaction that the Institute has been conducting its operations entirely through voluntary contributions of extrabudgetary resources, with administrative and substantive backstopping to the Institute being provided by the ESCAP secretariat,

Desiring to provide the Institute with a durable institutional framework by according it such legal status as would allow members and associate members of the Commission to continue to improve, both qualitatively and quantitatively, statistical capabilities and statistical information in the countries of the region,

1. *Recommends* that the Institute should continue its operations as a regional institution and should acquire the legal status of one of the Commission's subsidiary bodies as of 1 April 1995, and that a statute should be considered at the fifty-first session of the Commission;

2. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, in consultation, *inter alia*, with the Government of Japan

[5] See para. 466 above.

and the United Nations Development Programme, to take the necessary action in that regard;

3. *Expresses its deep appreciation* to the Government of Japan for its generous offer to continue to serve as the host country to the Institute;

4. *Expresses its confidence* that the Institute will continue to function on a sound financial basis exclusively through voluntary contributions;

5. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to report to the Commission at its fifty-first session on the implementation of the present resolution.

758th meeting
13 April 1994

50/6. Regional preparations for the World Summit for Social Development[6]

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 45/199 of 21 December 1990 on the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade,

Bearing in mind the Manila Declaration on a Social Development Strategy for the ESCAP Region Towards the Year 2000 and Beyond endorsed by the Commission in its resolution 48/5 of 23 April 1992,

Noting with concern that, despite relative improvements in the economic condition of some countries of the world, poverty continues to be prevalent in some parts of the Asian and Pacific region, resulting in particularly adverse conditions for such disadvantaged groups as women, children, disabled persons, ageing persons, minority groups, migrants and refugees,

Reiterating its commitment to the pursuit of social development in the Asian and Pacific region with a view to the eradication of poverty, the attainment of productive employment and social integration, the realization of basic human rights for all citizens and the fulfilment of the people's aspirations for social justice,

Mindful of the need for comprehensive and practical regional preparations for the World Summit for Social Development, to be convened in Copenhagen in 1995,

1. *Welcomes* the convening of the Asian and Pacific Ministerial Conference in Preparation for the World Summit for Social Development, which will have among its tasks review and assessment of the progress achieved towards attaining the aims and objectives of the Manila Declaration on a Social Development Strategy for the ESCAP Region Towards the Year 2000 and Beyond, which was adopted by the Fourth Asian and Pacific Ministerial Conference on Social Welfare and Social Development, held in Manila in 1991 and endorsed by the Commission at its forty-eighth session in 1992;

2. *Calls upon* all concerned donor countries, donor agencies and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to provide financial and technical support for the regional preparations for the World Summit for Social Development;

3. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to report on the status of implementation of the Manila Declaration at the Asian and Pacific Ministerial Conference in Preparation for the World Summit for Social Development.

758th meeting
13 April 1994

50/7. Update of the Jakarta Plan of Action on Human Resources Development in the ESCAP Region[7]

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling its resolution 274 (XLIV) of 20 April 1988 on the Jakarta Plan of Action on Human Resources Development in the ESCAP Region,

Recalling also its resolution 48/6 of 23 April 1992 on regional cooperation in the implementation of the Jakarta Plan of Action on Human Resources Development in the ESCAP Region, in which it requested, *inter alia*, that the Plan be refined, for consideration by the Commission at its fiftieth session, to take into account changing socio-economic conditions in the region,

Reaffirming its commitment to human resources development as an essential strategy for combating poverty in the region,

Recognizing that the further sustainable development of the Asian and Pacific region is closely dependent upon both the effective use of the region's human resources and their continued enrichment, through increased education, knowledge, skills and capabilities, improved health and nutritional status and health services, as well as other means,

Noting the importance that has been accorded by members and associate members to the Jakarta Plan of Action and the progress that has been achieved in its implementation,

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[6] See para. 338 above.

[7] See para. 376 above.

Noting also the useful work undertaken by the ESCAP secretariat, and by other United Nations bodies and agencies, including the United Nations Development Programme, the International Labour Organization and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, in implementation of the Plan,

Noting further that, in implementation of resolution 274 (XLIV), the secretariat convened the Expert Group Meeting to Review the Jakarta Plan of Action on Human Resources Development in the ESCAP Region, in Bangkok in January 1994, and took into full consideration in its revision of the Plan the recommendations made by those experts,

1. *Adopts* the Jakarta Plan of Action on Human Resources Development in the ESCAP Region, as refined and updated in 1994, annexed to the present resolution, as a guideline to be applied by the Commission and its members and associate members in accordance with the differing economic and social conditions prevailing in the countries and areas of the region;

2. *Urges* all members and associate members to accord priority to the formulation and implementation of policies, plans and programmes to promote human resources development as an integral aspect of development;

3. *Invites* members and associate members that have not already done so to establish national focal points for human resources development to oversee the implementation of the Plan at the national and subnational levels, and to participate as active members in the regionwide ESCAP Network of National Focal Points for Human Resources Development;

4. *Calls upon* all development partners, both bilateral and multilateral, to extend effective support to the Commission's efforts to further implement the Plan;

5. *Urges* the United Nations Development Programme and other funding agencies to provide adequate funding to support the further implementation of the Plan in the region in fulfilment of its human development policy objective;

6. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, within available budgetary resources, to intensify his efforts to promote the further implementation of the Plan, particularly in the following areas:

(a) Targeting the rural and urban poor, in particular the unemployed, women, youth, the landless, disabled persons, the elderly, and minority groups, as the primary beneficiaries of the secretariat's human resources development activities;

(b) Enhancing national capabilities through promoting human resources development policies that are compatible with economic growth and promote flexibility and continuous skills development;

(c) Promoting gender equity and women's empowerment as primary considerations in all human resources development policy formulation, planning and programming, monitoring and evaluation;

(d) Strengthening intersectoral cooperation between government, non-governmental organizations and private enterprise in the human resources development process;

(e) Facilitating intraregional exchange of experience and expertise through the ESCAP Network of National Focal Points for Human Resources Development;

(f) Enhancing the skills of government and non-governmental personnel in the planning and delivery of human resources development services through the provision of training;

7. *Further requests* the Executive Secretary, subject to the availability of budgetary resources:

(a) To prepare an inventory of centres of excellence in the region and to promote the use of the expertise available in those centres, on the basis of technical cooperation among developing countries, to enhance the quality of human resources throughout the region;

(b) To convene an ad hoc expert group meeting in 1996 to advise the secretariat on the direction of its work under phase III of the Jakarta Plan of Action, covering the period 1994-2000;

(c) To submit to the Commission in 1997 a report containing a mid-point review of progress achieved under phase III of the Plan.

758th meeting
13 April 1994

Annex

JAKARTA PLAN OF ACTION ON HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT IN THE ESCAP REGION, AS REVISED IN 1994

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Background

1. Human resources development was the main focus of discussion at three consecutive annual sessions of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), from 1986 to 1988. Those deliberations culminated in the adoption, on 20 April 1988, of resolution 274 (XLIV) on the Jakarta Plan of Action on Human Resources Development in the ESCAP Region.

2. The Jakarta Plan of Action was adopted partly in response to the growing awareness in Asia and the Pacific that development in too many cases had been successful only in narrowly defined terms, and that even that success had often bypassed the majority of the people in the region. It was simultaneously a reaction to the widespread perception that development policy, planning and programming had often had inadequate immediate human relevance and impact. Further, it arose out of the concern over rising human redundancy in many developing countries, owing to the reduced need under conditions of continued economic growth for the full utilization of the available human resources endowment.

3. A basic premise of the Plan was that the further sustainable development of the Asian and Pacific region would be closely dependent upon both the effective use of the region's human resources and their continued enrichment, through education, skills formation, improved health and nutrition, and other means. A reorientation in national development policies was therefore necessary to put a human face on development. The Plan proposed a set of coordinated policy guidelines for Asian and Pacific countries for the development of the full potential of their citizens. It outlined measures to be taken by the region's developing countries in upgrading their human resources to meet emerging economic and social development options and opportunities. It proposed action to facilitate broad-based participation by all the people in the human resources development process, focusing particularly on special provisions to enhance the status of the disadvantaged groups in society.

4. During the six years since its adoption, the Plan has proved to be a useful tool for Asian and Pacific Governments in pursuit of human resources development. The acid test of any such plan lies in its practical implementation by Governments. In that regard, the value of the Plan in stimulating national-level action has been evident. Some of the tangible results have included the following:

(a) Development of national plans of action on human resources development using the Jakarta Plan of Action as a blueprint;

(b) Incorporation of the recommendations contained in the Plan in national socio-economic development plans and policies;

(c) Formation of national inter-ministerial committees and other high-level bodies to coordinate the implementation of the Plan;

(d) Establishment of national focal points for human resources development for the pursuance of a coordinated inter-ministerial and intersectoral approach to national implementation of the Plan;

(e) Implementation of the Plan's proposals for action by government agencies involved in specific aspects of human resources development;

(f) Establishment of national information systems on human resources development;

(g) Mobilization of the private sector and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) for participation in human resources development planning, policy-making and programming;

(h) Popularization of the concept of human resources development through public awareness campaigns and mobilization of the mass media;

(i) Translation of the Plan into national languages to promote its wide dissemination to the public;

(j) Preparation of policy studies and organization of national seminars and training courses on human resources development issues covered in the Plan.

5. Regional support for the above national-level action was provided by ESCAP as well as other concerned United Nations agencies, including the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the International Labour Organization (ILO), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the World Health Organization (WHO). ESCAP activities in support of the Plan included the establishment and coordination of the ESCAP Network of National Focal Points for Human Resources Development; the organization of intergovernmental meetings, seminars and training workshops for both government and NGO personnel on various issues covered under the Plan; the conduct of research studies on critical human resources development issues; the establishment of the ESCAP Human Resources Development Award; service as a depository of information on human resources development activities in the region; and regionwide dissemination of information on human resources development through such publications as the *ESCAP HRD Newsletter*.

6. Since the adoption of the Jakarta Plan of Action in 1988, the Asian and Pacific region has experienced far-reaching changes, politically, economically and socially. Longstanding geopolitical and ideological schisms have given way to pragmatic approaches to cooperation. Throughout the region, Governments have initiated political reform, economic liberalization, social revitalization and subregional cooperation. Such changes demand new responses and priorities in human resources development.

7. It was with the above considerations in mind that the Commission, through resolution 48/6 of 23 April 1992 on regional cooperation in the implementation of the Jakarta Plan of Action on Human Resources Development in the ESCAP Region, requested the secretariat to revise the Plan to ensure its continued relevance to changing conditions in the region. In compliance with the Commission's request, the secretariat convened the Expert Group Meeting to Review the Jakarta Plan of Action on Human Resources Development in the ESCAP Region, at Bangkok in January 1994, with a view to revising the Plan for submission to the Commission at its fiftieth session for consideration and adoption.

8. As a result of a careful review, the Plan has been revised, incorporating the findings and recommendations of the Expert Group Meeting, to make it more relevant to the changing conditions and needs of the region and to ensure the suitability of its recommendations for direct implementation. The main changes in the revised Plan are summarized in the following table.

Table. Main changes in the revised Jakarta Plan of Action on Human Resources Development in the ESCAP Region

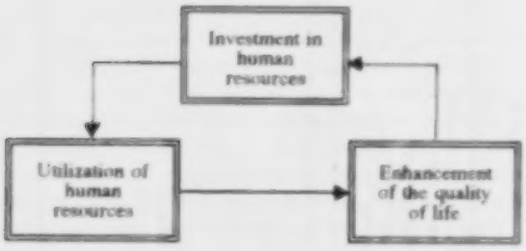
Jakarta Plan of Action, 1988	Jakarta Plan of Action, Revised, 1994	Changes
PART ONE: INTRODUCTION I. HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT: THE CORE CONCEPT II. ANALYTICAL FRAMEWORK A. Dimensions of human resources development B. Target groups for human resources development C. Enablers of human resources development D. Demand-focused versus supply-focused approaches E. The problem of uncertainty F. National issues in the regional context III. PRINCIPLES	PART ONE: ANALYTICAL FRAMEWORK I. THE CORE CONCEPT II. KEY ISSUES A. Components of human resources development B. Priority concerns C. The role of government and other enabler groups D. Change and uncertainty E. National issues in the regional and international context III. PRINCIPLES	The section on the core concept has been strengthened to provide a more rigorous theoretical framework, clearly identifying the components of human resources development as investment in human resources, utilization of human resources and enhancement of the quality of life. The section on key issues has been changed to conform with the revised section on the core concept. The list of principles has been retained largely intact. Technical changes have been made to reflect refinements in the core concept and the changing priorities of the Commission.
PART TWO: RECOMMENDATIONS AND PROPOSALS FOR ACTION I. POLICY AND PLANNING II. INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING III. EDUCATION AND TRAINING IV. RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS V. INFORMATION SYSTEMS VI. MONITORING AND EVALUATION	PART TWO: FRAMEWORK FOR ACTION I. PROMOTING HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT A. Investment in human resources B. Utilization of human resources C. Enhancement of the quality of life II. MANAGING HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT A. Policy, planning and programming B. Institutional strengthening C. Research and information D. Monitoring and evaluation E. Regional support	The recommendations have been merged with the proposals for action to eliminate redundancy. The classification of the proposals into major sections has been revised to separate substantive from procedural concerns. The number of proposals has been reduced to focus on the more practical, higher-priority items. The wording of many proposals has been revised to reflect the changing development priorities and socio-economic conditions in the region.
PART THREE: ARRANGEMENTS FOR IMPLEMENTATION I. PARTICIPATION II. COORDINATION A. At the national level B. At the regional level III. PRIORITIES IV. TIME-FRAME	PART THREE: ARRANGEMENTS FOR IMPLEMENTATION I. PARTICIPATION II. PRIORITY-SETTING III. COORDINATION A. At the national level B. At the regional level IV. TIME-FRAME	The section on participation remains basically intact. That on priority-setting has been updated to reflect changing regional circumstances. The section on coordination at the national level elaborates the role of the national focal points established under the Jakarta Plan of Action, 1988. The section on coordination at the regional level clarifies the role of ESCAP based on experience in implementing the Plan. While the time-frame has been updated, the original phasing has been retained.

Part One

ANALYTICAL FRAMEWORK

I. THE CORE CONCEPT

9. The concept of human resources development introduced in the Jakarta Plan of Action presents a human perspective of the development process as a whole. Human resources development is a continuing and iterative process comprising three interdependent components: (a) investment in human resources to enhance productive capabilities; (b) the utilization of those human resources to produce increased output; and (c) the participation of the human beings who embody those human resources in the benefits arising out of that increased output through an enhanced quality of life. The essential interdependence of the components of human resources development is shown in the following diagram.



10. Sustainable human resources development must involve all three components. At the national level, investment in human resources must be translated into the effective utilization of those human resources if national output is to be increased on a sustained basis. At the individual level, investment in human resources to improve earning capabilities through employment or self-employment increases the incentives for individuals (and their families) to undertake further human resources development. It also increases their capability to finance future such development.

11. The concept of human resources development presented in the Jakarta Plan of Action emphasizes the synergistic congruence — particularly strong in developing countries — between investment in human resources and improvements in the quality of life. Improvements in nutrition, health and education are key elements of an improved quality of life and thus must be considered important investments in human resources. Conversely, the increased job satisfaction and sense of personal worth arising from increased productivity constitute an important contribution to the quality of life.

12. Participation and choice are also key elements of this holistic view of human resources development. The financial reward obtained from participation in productive activity is the principal means by which individuals are able to participate in the quality-of-life benefits that are created by development. The enhanced capabilities created by development enlarge the choices available to both individuals and nations, while the individual nature of many aspects of human resources development makes individual choice a key element in the process of such development.

13. Human resources development emphasizes the concept of sustainability. In an economic sense, at the national level the development is sustainable only when it contributes to an increase in national product, thereby creating the resources required to maintain and finance further human resources development. The sustainability of human resources development is also dependent on its impact on the natural resource base. For example, in countries where natural resource endowments are limited, either on an aggregate or per capita basis, a combination of rapid depletion of resources and rapid population growth can exacerbate pressure on human resources development and lead to a deterioration in the quality of life and the conditions underlying poverty. For the development to be sustainable, economic and social systems need to be managed in a way which optimizes the benefits available in the present without jeopardizing the potential for similar benefits in the future.

14. At the individual level, human resources development is a dynamic process that can be described in terms of a modified form of the cost-benefit framework developed in human capital theory. The essential element in that process is the net benefit or return on investment. This provides the incentive that motivates the individual to improve human resources and, over time, provides the increased resources that enable human resource investments to be undertaken and maintained. The cost-benefit framework *(benefits - costs = returns)* encompasses all three components of human resources development. The costs relate to the investments in improving the productivity of human resources, while the benefits are produced when those investments are subsequently utilized in production. The returns (net benefit) obtained, usually, but by no means solely, identifiable in terms of increased income, provide beneficiaries with an opportunity to improve their quality of life.

15. Any decision to invest in human resources development involves both costs and benefits, both monetary and non-monetary. For instance, most investments in human resources (for example, undertaking a course of education or training) involve not only financial outlays but also considerable time, an important component of the total investment cost being the opportunity cost (that is, the notional income that could have been earned during that time if the individual

had not been engaged in the course). Although conventional economic applications of cost-benefit analysis tend to emphasize the monetary costs and benefits, the non-monetary costs and benefits are also important, possibly even more so. Non-monetary costs include social and psychological injury, such as the social disapproval or stress that individuals may experience as a result of particular lifestyle, career or other such decisions. Similarly, non-monetary benefits such as personal satisfaction, prestige or enhanced social status may be important in motivating individuals to invest in human resources development.

16. The cost-benefit framework emphasizes that the critical consideration which motivates the individual's decision to invest is the return on investment. As the poor are generally unaware of or otherwise constrained from realizing the net benefit to be derived from investments in human resources development, their investment incentives are likely to be weaker than those of other social groups. That decision-making weakness implies the need for a demand-oriented approach that focuses on the means of increasing the motivation of the poor to undertake human resources development.

17. Applied at the aggregate or national level, the cost-benefit framework must be modified in two critical respects. Whereas an increase in individual income is a sufficient incentive for an individual to consider a given investment in human resources development to be efficient, at the national level efficiency requires that the total national product be increased. These may not be equivalent conditions. For example, if investments such as higher education do not enhance productivity but merely improve individuals' access to jobs, the net impact of such investments on national income may be zero or even negative.

18. At the aggregate level, the cost-benefit framework must also be modified to take account of externalities, or the costs and benefits of human resources development to society as a whole as distinct from the personal costs and benefits to individuals. The distinction is important because the benefits of many improvements to human resources are even larger for society as a whole than for the individual. In view of the strong positive externalities, the comparatively weak individual incentives to invest in many aspects of human resources development suggest that Governments should play a major role in ensuring that such development is vigorously pursued.

19. While the critical importance of human resources for development is not a new idea, the concept of human resources development as perceived by the Commission goes further. The Commission has recognized that human resources development is a broad concept encompassing both the means and ends of development and that it is equally essential for both economic and social progress. The interrelationships between human resources development activities within as well as among sectors require sustained attention if their positive potential for development is to be harnessed effectively. Likewise, the opportunities provided by human resources development should facilitate broad-based participation by the people in the development process, with special consideration to the participation of the poor.

II. KEY ISSUES

20. Implementation of a plan of action on human resources development for the ESCAP region requires a common understanding of the key analytical issues to be dealt with by all countries. The basic issues associated with the analytical framework developed for the Jakarta Plan of Action are as follows.

A. Components of human resources development

21. Human resources development is a multi-dimensional, dynamic concept that encompasses the dual roles of people as inputs into the development process and as the ultimate beneficiaries of that process. The essential elements of human resources development are (a) investment in human resources, (b) utilization of human resources, and (c) enhancement of the quality of life. These three components form a set of complementary, interdependent relationships. No individual component can be fully examined without reference to the others; yet each provides unique insights into the nature of the overall problem of human resources development and the means whereby it can be resolved effectively and efficiently. Together they provide an integrated framework for examining the human resources development process. The priority issues to be considered under each component are as follows.

1. Investment in human resources

22. Investment in human resources focuses on the processes by which the productive capacity of human resources can be increased by upgrading their quality. While better nutrition and health are important means of improving the quality of human resources, particularly in developing countries, it is generally agreed that the most critical processes for increasing the productivity of human beings are education and training. The proposals for action contained in the Plan embody a comprehensive view of education, encompassing the formal education system at all levels as well as lifelong education in the form of adult and continuing education programmes. Training is similarly broadly conceived to include skills development through post-school vocational and technical training, on-the-job training, retraining and community-based training. International economic trends and new technologies make it extremely difficult to predict the kinds of expertise that will be needed in the medium and long terms. Therefore, education and training efforts should be focused on creating broad-based productive capabilities

rather than a narrowly skilled workforce. A strong basic education, it is well recognized, can enhance lifelong adaptability, flexibility and mobility and can serve as sound preparation for training in specific skills. It can generate broad social benefits and provide the poor with access to opportunities that would be undreamed of otherwise.

2. Utilization of human resources

23. Effective utilization of labour is vital in order to ensure incentives that are strong enough to elicit initial investments in human resources development and a level of economic growth high enough to provide adequate resources for sustained investment in human resources development. While many countries in the region continue to face strong restructuring pressure that results in high levels of unemployment and underemployment, others that have achieved high levels of economic growth are beginning to experience labour shortages in specific sectors. Past, and in many developing countries continuing, rapid increases in population have resulted in a rapidly growing labour force throughout most of the region. In a number of countries, rapid population growth has also contributed to the generally low prevailing levels of education and skill. Changes in the composition of global demand for goods and services have made it imperative for developing countries to reduce their dependence on the production of labour-intensive primary commodities and emphasize the production of more skills- and capital-intensive modern industries and services. As a result, serious unemployment and underemployment situations have arisen in some cases in the agrarian sector and unskilled labour market. For many developing countries, additional problems have appeared with respect to matching labour demand and supply, associated with unstable or deteriorating domestic and international demand conditions. Under such circumstances, policy changes are required to create an economic environment providing adequate employment opportunities, efficient labour market signals and a structure of incentives that will enhance labour utilization and investment in training. Many countries in the region are also focusing increasingly on the potential of self-employment, entrepreneurship and the expansion of the informal sector, as well as international labour migration, to utilize their human resources better.

3. Enhancement of the quality of life

24. The evident inability of the development process to generate substantial improvement in national and international equity or eradicate poverty in many developing countries has little likelihood of being overcome unless carefully coordinated remedial strategies, policies and programmes are introduced in a number of key sectors, including education, health, population, urbanization and the environment. Tapping the potential of the underutilized human resources represented by the poor would generate significant socio-economic progress while simultaneously enhancing the quality of life of the people in greatest need. Conversely, improvements in the quality of life of the poor would have a significant impact on their productive capability. Practical measures for improving the living conditions of the poor and increasing their level of participation in society will need to be identified and implemented vigorously if those benefits are to be realized.

B. Priority concerns

25. The revised Jakarta Plan of Action identifies four priority areas of special concern for human resources development: targeting the poor, enhancing competitiveness, developing women's human resources, and harnessing science and technology.

1. Targeting the poor

26. The productive capabilities and resilience of individuals, communities and organizations to deal with rapidly changing economic and social circumstances must be strengthened at all levels and among all sections of society if the Plan is to succeed in upgrading the region's human resources. However, no national or regional development plan can hope to have a direct influence on every individual, community and organization, especially in the presence of the severe physical and financial resource constraints prevalent in developing countries throughout Asia and the Pacific. It is therefore necessary that target groups for human resources development be identified.

27. Target groups should be selected on the basis of cost-benefit criteria, including the prospective linkages and multiplier effects, of the human resources development programmes directed at them. The poor form the obvious first-priority target for human resources development, not only because of the egalitarian and humanitarian ideals that would be served thereby but, equally important, because of the high long-term returns on investment that would be achieved.

28. The poor, by no means a homogeneous group, bear different costs and receive benefits depending on the human resources development programme as well as the particular segments of the poor population most directly affected. Targeting is therefore essential for effective programme delivery. Furthermore, in the absence of careful targeting, human resources development programmes intended for the poor are likely to be captured by the non-poor. Targeting requires the identification of specific subgroups among the poor, such as the absolute poor, the unemployed, women, youth, disabled persons, and minority groups, so that programmes can be adapted to the specific characteristics and circumstances of the individual subgroups.

29. The rationale for identifying target groups under the Plan coincides with the Commission's priorities under its revised conference structure as delineated in resolution 48/2 of 23 April 1992. Under that resolution, the Commission established three thematic committees, one of which was to deal with issues specifically related to poverty alleviation. The terms of reference of that thematic committee (contained in annex V to the resolution), which oversees the Commission's activities in support of human resources development, refer specifically to vulnerable and disadvantaged social groups as the focus of its attention.

2. Enhancing competitiveness

30. With the growing importance of international trade, capital flows and technology transfer for national development throughout the region, strategic approaches to the creation of national comparative advantage in specific areas of production are being increasingly sought. Human resources development, which is the most adaptable, energy-efficient and self-sustaining form of capital, is an essential element of such an approach.

31. Efforts to enhance national competitiveness in particular activities require human resources development policies that are compatible with economic growth and promote flexibility and continuous skills development. Human capital formation through formal and informal education and on-the-job training is critical. Investment in improving the education and skill levels of the population is likely to be the most important determinant of long-term national economic performance.

32. The structure of incentives is a key to effective and efficient skill development. The most successful programmes place high priority on the design of incentives that maximize the rewards to individuals for effort, initiative and creative ability in response to market forces. The challenge is to move from rigid and supply-oriented training policies and programmes financed and provided by Governments to more adaptable, demand-oriented, employer-sponsored training, while establishing appropriate, complementary roles for the State. A second priority is to empower the people with the knowledge and skills necessary to take advantage of opportunities for their own economic and social advancement. Paramount among the means of such empowerment is investment in education, complemented by investment in nutrition and health.

3. Developing women's human resources

33. The development record shows a persistent bias against investment in women's human resources. It also reveals a consistent pattern of underutilization of those resources. Furthermore, women throughout the region enjoy a lower quality of life than do their male counterparts. Recognition of the essential interdependence of the three components of human resources development is particularly important in the case of women. Their lower level of human resources development compared with that of men is an important factor in the overall development situation in the region.

34. Women have lower levels of human resources development than men in part because development programmes have failed to take account of the influence of gender on the costs and benefits of human resources development. Therefore, it is essential that gender equity be accepted as a primary consideration in all policy formulation, planning and programming for such development. To achieve that objective, the specific roles, interests and concerns of women should be identified through gender analysis; increased participation of women should be ensured in decision-making; and gender-sensitive data should be used in order to enhance women's human resources development and their participation in development as beneficiaries and agents of change.

4. Harnessing science and technology

35. Rapid accretions to the international fund of science and technology continue to revise the agenda of development opportunities in Asia and the Pacific. Unless vigorous steps are taken to adapt human resources to the new realities, the development potential embodied in modern science and technology may be lost to the region's developing countries. New technologies must also be adapted to the region's labour-dominant factor proportions. Furthermore, the new technologies are also useful for addressing the region's pressing human resources investment needs; attention can be turned to both the generation of skilled personnel for the promotion of science and technology and the utilization of science and technology to upgrade the full range of human resources, including those of the poor.

C. The role of government and other enabler groups

36. Over the past half-century, many countries in the ESCAP region placed considerable reliance on the public sector, confident that government would be able to guide the course of economic and social development. Mounting problems in the application of that development strategy, however, have in recent years generated far-reaching changes throughout the region. Yet, the primary responsibility for human resources development remains the province of government because of externalities of much human resources investment and problems of access for the poor. Increasingly, however, the role of government has come to emphasize the human resources development aspects of macro-policy and the provision of a physical and social environment conducive to individual initiative. The human resources development role of business enterprises, NGOs and other economic and social institutions has expanded correspondingly.

37. The decentralization of political authority which has accompanied the process of liberalization in many countries has provided an opportunity for the people themselves increasingly to influence the economic and social forces that shape their lives. A new configuration of organizations has emerged in that context to complement the role of government as agent of development. The Plan classifies all those actors, including the agents of government, as enablers of human resources development, whose own human resources must be upgraded in order to implement effectively the programmes and projects called for under the Plan.

38. Enablers are drawn from among those which come into direct contact with the disadvantaged sections of society. Particularly important are government agencies responsible for local-level public administration, where the weaknesses of human resources development policy implementation are often most keenly felt; agencies responsible for the delivery of essential services at the local level, including primary schools; local health offices and agricultural extension bureaux; business firms, which are not only responsible for providing employment but are also sources of technological and other expertise; NGOs, whose voluntary efforts play a critical role in encouraging popular participation, developing public understanding, filling gaps and supplementing government efforts at the grass-roots level; and the mass media, which provide the increasingly powerful knowledge, information and communications networks indispensable to modern economic and social life. The personnel staffing these enabler organizations themselves require appropriate education, training, awareness-raising, provision of incentives and other means to ensure that they fulfil their special role.

39. The human resources embodied in enablers are vital to human resources development, and many vital enabler organizations require only minimal budgetary support. Although budgetary and material resources remain critically important, Governments should not overlook the great potential for human resources development inherent in the effective utilization of their own personnel. Human resources, including those available within the family, the community and voluntary groups, are more important than financial resources in dealing with such special social concerns as delinquency, crime, drug abuse and acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS), and health problems such as malnutrition that may seriously undermine human resources development.

D. Change and uncertainty

40. One of the major lessons of past attempts at development planning by countries in the ESCAP region has been that, no matter how refined the analysis of economic and social conditions and no matter how sophisticated the techniques used, the unexpected usually intervenes. Consequently, directive development planning has fallen into disfavour, and even indicative planning is being handled with increasing care.

41. Nowhere has this problem been more evident than in human resources development planning, where the relevant time-span is the medium to long term and where the policy environment is becoming increasingly complex. The numbers of organizations, power groups and kinds of beneficiaries with direct interests in these policies have grown dramatically over the years. The economies of countries in the ESCAP region have become more diversified and market forces are now playing a greater role in the allocation of resources. Economic and social change is accelerating through the forces unleashed by such factors as technological advance, industrialization, urbanization, and increasing international and intercultural interaction.

42. Given the uncertainties and ever-growing complexity of the human resources development environment, as well as the extent of intercountry variation in the region, the revised Jakarta Plan of Action has been formulated to permit application under a broad spectrum of possible scenarios.

43. With these concerns in view, the Plan limits its prescriptive content primarily to the development of human resources at the basic level. In dealing with longer-term issues, it is more indicative in nature. The Plan's proposals for action and the institutional mechanisms for implementing them provide for built-in flexibility to respond to change and to enhance the adaptability and strengthen the resilience of the specified target groups in the presence of evolving development challenges.

E. National issues in the regional and international context

44. The ESCAP region is unique in the heterogeneity of its economic and social situation as well as its political and cultural conditions and geophysical features. Given the broad diversity of the region's national development experience, the Plan seeks to ensure sufficient scope and flexibility to accommodate the full range of national circumstances and feasible human resources development responses. In the final analysis, the Plan must be implemented at the national level.

45. Action at the regional level can play a supportive role. Regional analysis and technical assistance, regional cooperation among developing countries, and regional coordination of responses to emerging economic and social issues — all such approaches to human resources development among countries complement and supplement the broad range of programmes and projects that must be undertaken within countries to resolve critical issues relating to the human resources development process.

46. International assistance for financing the necessary investment to support national policies requires a long-term perspective. Donors will need to bring their individual objectives and programme interests together so that national human resources development strategies may receive the coherent and flexible support they require.

47. The international context in which developing countries must pursue their human resources development goals also needs to be recognized and addressed. The debt crisis, declining international commodity prices, dwindling external resource flows and persistent protectionism weaken the developing countries' capacity to embark on necessary investment programmes and socio-economic adjustment and restructuring strategies. Efforts to improve the global setting for human resources development through such means as the North-South dialogue are therefore necessary to complement the internal efforts of individual developing countries.

48. The degree of commitment to human resources development objectives in the implementation of structural adjustment programmes is critical to the pace at which some of the developing countries of the ESCAP region pursue their human resources development goals. Specific human resources development issues, such as the provision of social safety nets for the vulnerable and disadvantaged sections of the population, the maintenance of adequate levels of investment in human resources to ensure sustainability, and the provision of adequate social services to permit a minimum quality of life need to be considered in the context of restructuring. In this context, the role of international financial institutions is again significant, as their sponsorship of human resources development can influence sharply the development policies and strategies adopted by developing countries in the region.

III. PRINCIPLES

49. The Jakarta Plan of Action is founded on the following principles:

(a) The human factor plays a decisive role as a productive agent in development; at the same time, it is the people who are the intended beneficiaries of development. Human resources development thus serves as both an essential means and the ultimate end of development.

(b) The three major dimensions of investment in human resources, utilization of human resources and enhancement of the quality of life constitute a comprehensive framework for the effective planning and execution of human resources development in the ESCAP region.

(c) Human resources development can contribute significantly to the eradication of absolute poverty. In the planning and execution of such development, priority must therefore be placed on poverty alleviation, with particular emphasis on specific disadvantaged sections of society.

(d) The interaction between human resources development and all facets of economic and social progress requires a carefully coordinated approach to the planning and execution of human resources development, involving the active participation of all sectors and groups.

(e) Gender equity should be a primary consideration in policy formulation, planning and programming for human resources development. Women's particular interests and concerns should be mainstreamed in all human resources development policies, plans and programmes in order to increase their access to gainful and productive employment and enhance their participation in national development processes, as both beneficiaries and agents of change.

(f) While primary responsibility for the implementation of human resources development plans and programmes rests with national Governments, much scope exists, especially at the local level, for involving other enabler groups, which can often exert a direct catalytic effect on the human resources development of specific target groups.

(g) Conventional supply-focused human resources development strategies, which emphasize investment in human resources, must be balanced by demand-oriented strategies, which involve the elimination of socio-cultural and other constraints to the productive utilization of human resources.

(h) Uncertainty concerning future economic and social development trends requires that built-in flexibility, including a focus on indicative rather than prescriptive content, be emphasized in human resources development planning and execution.

(i) In designing regional approaches to the planning and execution of human resources development, due attention must be paid to the diversity of national experiences and situations, including the special needs of the least developed, land-locked and island developing countries.

(j) The formulation and implementation of national strategies, policies, plans and programmes for human resources development are the sovereign right and responsibility of each member and associate member of ESCAP, to be carried out within the context of its specific national development needs and objectives.

(k) Regional cooperation and technical assistance in support of national strategies, policies, plans and programmes for human resources development make an important contribution to the enhancement of human resources endowments.

Part Two

FRAMEWORK FOR ACTION

50. This framework for action consists of two sets of proposals. The first comprises 30 proposals in promotion of the three components of human resources development: investment in human resources (13 proposals), utilization of human resources (8 proposals) and enhancement of the quality of life (9 proposals). The second set comprises 32 proposals for the effective management of human resources development: policy, planning and programming (5 proposals), institutional strengthening (6 proposals), research and information (7 proposals), monitoring and evaluation (4 proposals) and regional support (10 proposals). It is expected that countries will set their individual priorities in implementation of these proposals in accordance with their respective development situations.

I. PROMOTING HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT

A. Investment in human resources

(1) As perhaps their single most significant means of supporting human resources development, Governments should strengthen their efforts towards the realization of universal basic education, where this has not yet been achieved, and in facilitating access to secondary education for all who qualify.

(2) Recognizing that effective pursuit of the ideal of education for all requires the collaboration of all sectors, Governments should define clear procedures and standards to promote the establishment and strengthening of private and other non-governmental educational institutions.

(3) In order to provide an effective basis for lifelong education in a rapidly changing economic and social environment, curriculum development should be undertaken on a continuous basis to enhance the quality of education at all levels.

(4) Strong literacy and numeracy skills, emphasizing the acquisition of problem-solving abilities rather than rote knowledge alone, should be imparted by basic education programmes to provide a foundation for the skills required in a world advancing rapidly under the influence of modern science and technology.

(5) The relevance of secondary education programmes should be enhanced through an increased focus on skills for independent learning and the application of scientific principles, critical thinking and effective communications, stressing the application of knowledge to local problems and conditions.

(6) Adult education programmes should be promoted to teach basic literacy and numeracy skills and elementary science to all persons with little or no formal education, especially women, as a critical means of improving their employment prospects and enhancing their quality of life.

(7) Continuing education programmes should be designed to support lifelong education, particularly to facilitate the upgrading of underutilized human resources and enhance the capacity of individuals to adapt to rapidly changing social and economic circumstances.

(8) Women's educational self-help networks should be supported to provide women, especially those wishing to enter the labour force, with access to basic education and training.

(9) Vocational and technical training should be made relevant to both current and prospective employment conditions by applying a broad and flexible approach to human resources development that fosters the capacity of skilled labour to adjust to changes in labour demand.

(10) Vocational and technical curricula should be broadened to inculcate entrepreneurial values and should include exposure to the full range of skills required for the operation of small-scale enterprises.

(11) Work-study programmes, work attachments and apprenticeship schemes should be incorporated in vocational and technical training programmes to increase their relevance to actual employment conditions.

(12) Business firms should be encouraged, through incentives and technical support, to expand and improve their on-the-job, employment-related training capacity as well as provide opportunities for continuing education for their employees in outside training institutions.

(13) Innovative training approaches and instructional techniques should be developed to upgrade the employment and self-employment skills of the poor, particularly those in the informal sector, who would not ordinarily seek formal training opportunities even if these were available.

B. Utilization of human resources

(14) Recognizing that increased employment stems largely from policies that promote labour-utilizing investment, Governments should promote a positive investment environment, with preference give to employment-oriented investment in both the public and private sectors.

(15) Macroeconomic distortions that inhibit the full and productive employment of all those ready, willing and able to work should be modified or removed.

(16) Governments should improve the efficiency of the labour market by devising mechanisms to disseminate information about job opportunities to job-seekers and information about job-seekers to employers, and should promote the involvement of the private sector and community and non-governmental groups in such activities.

(17) Policies that support the informal sector and small-scale and cottage industries, which tend to be relatively labour-intensive, should be adopted specifically to increase employment opportunities for the poor.

(18) Programmes should be developed to promote self-employment and entrepreneurship, particularly in the informal and service sectors, through the provision of a supportive legal framework, appropriate infrastructure and services, and access to credit, as well as training in business skills.

(19) Special consideration should be given to the means of enhancing the employment contribution of small-scale and cottage industries, and industrial regulations and administrative procedures should be rationalized to facilitate the formation of linkages between enterprises in the informal and formal sectors.

(20) Urban planners should develop supportive facilities and provide essential services to enterprises in the informal sector, as that sector has the potential to employ large numbers of the urban poor.

(21) The possibilities of appropriate land reforms should be re-examined and the extension of economic infrastructure and delivery of economic services to rural and isolated areas should be pursued to create a more supportive environment for the full and productive utilization of human resources in rural areas, where a large share of the poor are typically located.

C. Enhancement of the quality of life

(22) In the allocation of public expenditures, greater recognition should be given to the fact that expenditures on the quality of life are also investments in human resources. Particular efforts should be made, on that basis, to increase the share of government budgets allocated to quality-of-life expenditures and, during periods of fiscal stringency, structural adjustment or economic reform, to preserve that share.

(23) Governments should encourage employers to take into full account the positive influence on productivity of improvements in the quality of life of the workforce and to take appropriate action, particularly in relation to working hours, working conditions and occupational health and safety.

(24) In view of the fact that improvements in the status of women contribute significantly to the quality of life of the population at large, human resources development programmes should give priority to improvements in the status of women, especially women in the workforce.

(25) Social service delivery programmes should be designed to provide adequate social infrastructure and effective service delivery in areas of greatest need, including isolated rural villages and urban slums, with effective back-up support from higher levels.

(26) Social services should be delivered to the poor through the coordinated action of the public, private and non-governmental sectors, and the delivery of those services should be rationalized through realistic programming, in-service training, and other means of ensuring that the designated target groups receive the intended benefits.

(27) The responsiveness of social service delivery systems to the needs and interests of the poor should be enhanced through the strengthening of links between the government agencies involved and other concerned institutions, particularly voluntary agencies, people's associations, community organizations and private enterprises engaged in the delivery of basic services.

(28) Affirmative action programmes should be targeted more effectively to the poor by adopting a demand-oriented approach that focuses on increasing public awareness of programme benefits and reducing socio-

cultural and other constraints to participation.

(29) The capacity of institutions engaged in scientific research and development to improve the quality of life should be strengthened so that the benefits of the new technologies can reach the people, including the poor.

(30) Effective strategies should be devised to ameliorate the potentially negative impact on families of domestic and international labour migration, especially the migration of women. In particular, agencies providing services such as health care, education and counselling should adapt their delivery strategies to the special needs and circumstances of families affected by migration.

II. MANAGING HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT

A. Policy, planning and programming

(31) Each Government, as part of its national development strategy, should set clear-cut goals in respect of each of the Plan's three components of human resources development and should identify appropriate policies and programmes for attaining those goals within a specified period.

(32) Within the context of its national development strategy, each Government should pursue macroeconomic policies that promote human resources development, paying particular attention to the need to ensure that those policies have a beneficial impact on the poor.

(33) The comparative advantage of private enterprise, NGOs, the community and the family as vehicles for human resources development should be utilized by Governments in their development of a multisectoral strategy for such development.

(34) Gender-sensitive approaches to human resources development policy formulation, planning and programming should be adopted. In particular, women's active participation in decision-making, including national policy formulation and planning, should be encouraged through special programmes to enhance women's human resources development at senior and managerial levels.

(35) Governments should consider the potentially positive impact of the devolution of administrative and financial responsibility and authority, accompanied by training of local-level personnel and rationalization of the institutional arrangements under which they function, in enhancing the effectiveness and outreach of human resources development programmes.

B. Institutional strengthening

(36) Governments which have not already identified a national focal point for human resources development should designate an appropriate institution or body to coordinate multisectoral policy-making, planning, programming and monitoring of human resources development.

(37) To enhance its effectiveness, each national focal point for human resources development should be strategically linked to the highest policy-making levels of government and provided with operational and budgetary autonomy.

(38) Concerned government agencies, NGOs and private enterprises should be provided with ready access to the national focal point for human resources development and with the means of active participation in its coordinating activities.

(39) Each national focal point for human resources development should prioritize the recommendations in the revised Plan in the light of its country's specific national conditions and needs and should take action to ensure that those prioritized proposals are acted upon effectively.

(40) Government agencies involved in human resources development policy formulation and programme implementation at subnational levels should be encouraged to adopt a participatory approach to human resources development that involves both beneficiaries and non-governmental enabler groups.

(41) Governments should establish standard procedures to facilitate cooperation with NGOs, including community groups, as a means of ensuring their effective coordination and participation in the implementation of human resources development at the grass-roots level.

C. Research and information

(42) Among the broad range of policy issues on which research should be conducted to advance human resources development, the following should receive priority attention:

(a) The interface between macroeconomic development policies and human resources development processes, to identify the human resources development implications of different policy options;

(b) The means of increasing the responsiveness of the workforce to changing labour market conditions, including the scope for private skills training;

(c) The effects of different skills training regimes on labour productivity, and the links between skill development, productivity and compensation;

(d) The role of gender in education, particularly in science and technology education and vocational and technical training, and the formulation of strategies to enhance women's access to these critical areas of human resources development;

(e) The role of gender in the workplace, particularly in relation to gender differentials in the higher echelons of government service and the private sector, as a basis for the development of affirmative action programmes to increase women's participation in human resources development;

(f) The role of NGOs in enhancing the quality of life of the poor through successful approaches to the planning and delivery of essential services targeted at low-income groups;

(g) The role of the private sector in supplementing government efforts to develop and implement more adaptable, demand-oriented training programmes, especially targeted at the poor.

(43) Down-scaled research and development focusing on the technological and managerial upgrading of small-scale, labour-intensive, local resource-based enterprises should be encouraged as a means of enhancing economic opportunities for the poor.

(44) The differential costs and benefits, particularly the social and other non-monetary costs and benefits, of specific aspects of human resources development for particular disadvantaged groups should be identified through interdisciplinary and qualitative research strategies, to assist in the development of more effective means of raising their human resources status.

(45) The activities of the many agencies involved in the collection of human resources development data should be standardized and the dissemination and utilization of those data should be improved to facilitate regional analysis.

(46) Data processing facilities for human resources development should be upgraded and training of qualified personnel for human resources development information processing and analysis should be conducted.

(47) The information dissemination capabilities of the mass media should be fully used to generate public awareness of the critical role of human resources development, with particular attention to its role in poverty alleviation.

(48) Human resources development information and training materials should be disseminated in readily accessible form, in local languages where appropriate, to enabler and target groups at the grass-roots level.

D. Monitoring and evaluation

(49) Appropriate aggregate, sectoral and target group-specific indicators should be designed to permit the monitoring and evaluation of changes in each of the three components of human resources development, and to identify the precise impact of human resources development programmes.

(50) Reporting systems should be instituted to provide regular information flows from the grass-roots level to the centre to facilitate human resources development monitoring, and evaluation mechanisms for feedback from the centre to the grassroots should be set up to permit responsive adjustments.

(51) The reports of human resources development programme monitoring and evaluation exercises should contain quantified statements on progress achieved, using the indicators developed, and should be disseminated widely in order to increase awareness as well as transparency of the entire human resources development effort.

(52) Private sector involvement in human resources development, particularly in education and training, should be monitored to ensure complementarity between public and private programmes and to provide a basis for appropriate public sector policy and planning adjustments.

E. Regional support

(53) The ESCAP Network of National Focal Points for Human Resources Development, under the coordination of the ESCAP secretariat, should be strengthened and extended to include all ESCAP members and associate members.

(54) A human resources development trust fund should be established within ESCAP for regional and national projects and activities in implementation of the Plan.

(55) In order to enhance the effectiveness of the national focal points for human resources development, all concerned United Nations bodies and agencies working on such development in the region should keep the national focal points fully informed of their in-country activities.

(56) A review of the activities of the national focal points for human resources development should be undertaken by the ESCAP secretariat as a basis for providing guidance on their further development.

(57) A study of the special human resources development circumstances and needs of countries in the region with economies in transition should be undertaken and technical assistance requirements in the areas identified should be provided.

(58) Technical cooperation among developing countries (TCDC) should be encouraged among training institutions in the region to promote skills training, with particular attention to the development of employment, self-employment and entrepreneurship skills among the poor and to the expansion of on-the-job training programmes.

(59) Government agencies and other concerned institutions in countries that have implemented human resources development programmes successfully should be encouraged to invite representatives of other countries in the region, on a TCDC basis, to participate in in-country seminars, training courses, study tours and other relevant events to share their achievements on a regional basis.

(60) The ESCAP secretariat, in collaboration with UNESCO, should explore effective measures to promote the regional development of distance education, including modalities such as intraregional exchanges among national institutions, including the possible establishment of a regional open university, with a view to extending human resources development opportunities to a wider public.

(61) The ESCAP secretariat should implement regional and subregional training programmes for government and non-government personnel designed to enhance their awareness of the special needs of the poor and upgrade their capabilities in conducting human resources development programmes for particular subgroups of the poor, including the absolute poor, the unemployed, women, youth, disabled persons and minority groups.

(62) The ESCAP secretariat should focus attention on the particular human resources development needs of working women in the region and undertake projects designed to assist women in developing leadership, managerial and entrepreneurial skills to promote their full participation in public office, government service and private enterprise.

Part Three

ARRANGEMENTS FOR IMPLEMENTATION

I. PARTICIPATION

51. The various participants, at both the national and regional levels, must play closely coordinated and complementary roles in the execution of the Jakarta Plan of Action if it is to continue to have a significant influence on human resources development in the region.

52. First and foremost, at the national level Governments will, where they have not done so, need to devise national plans of action in pursuance of the proposals contained in the Plan. They will need to ensure adequate budgetary and other resource inputs for the implementation of the national plans of action. Further, if they have not already done so, they will need to establish the necessary institutional infrastructure, including planning and executing bodies and national coordination mechanisms, to permit the full and effective discharge of their national responsibilities in accordance with the provisions of the Plan.

53. Second, private enterprises and NGOs, as well as the public at large, must continue to be mobilized to play supportive roles in the formulation and execution of the national plans of action. Procedures to enlist the regular participation of these sectors in the execution of such plans should be established. The various concerned sectors should continue to be encouraged to develop projects in support of those plans. Such multisectoral participation is essential not only because it ensures the most effective use of scarce resources but also because the various sectors possess accumulated

experience and expertise that can complement government efforts.

54. At the regional level, the continued participation of intergovernmental organizations, including the United Nations bodies and agencies active in the region, is required to support national efforts. Specific activities must continue to be devised by these organizations to support the human resources development efforts of Governments. In addition, activities need to be developed by these organizations to promote further regional cooperation, including TCDC. Finally, it will be necessary for the ESCAP secretariat to continue to serve as the regional focal point for coordinating the implementation of the Plan, in addition to its role as an executing agency for implementation of the Plan at the regional level and support for activities at the national level.

55. All concerned donor countries and agencies need to continue to give special attention to providing financial assistance for the effective execution of programmes and projects in pursuance of the Plan. In view of the magnitude of the task and the high priority placed by Governments on their promulgation of the Plan, it is urged that donor countries and agencies accord the highest priority to the allocation of resources in support of activities in implementation of the Plan.

II. PRIORITY-SETTING

56. While the Plan incorporates a holistic and coordinated approach to human resources development, it is not comprehensive in scope. Its 62 proposals for action represent a carefully developed set of guidelines designed to address key human resources development concerns in the context of changing socio-economic conditions in the Asian and Pacific region. In developing the guidelines, particular attention has been given to measures to enhance the human resources development needs of the poor.

57. Priorities should be set by each country, taking into account its national circumstances, including the stage of human resources development that it has reached. The diversity of levels of development in the region point to the special need for each country to identify its own priorities based on its own special circumstances. Conformity with the broad principles and guidelines of the Plan is, however, necessary in all cases. In this regard, each country should identify its human resources development priorities in terms of the three components of the Plan: investment in human capital, utilization of human resources, and enhancement of the quality of life, with special reference to the needs of the poor.

58. Priority-setting should be a shared responsibility of the concerned national agencies and organizations in both the public and private sectors. The national priority-setting exercise should be coordinated by the national focal point for human resources development. At the regional level, priority-setting should be the collective responsibility of the various United Nations agencies and bodies and other intergovernmental organizations participating in the implementation of the Plan.

III. COORDINATION

A. At the national level

59. To ensure the full and effective coordination of the implementation of the Plan at the national level, each Government, if it has not already done so, will need to establish a national focal point for human resources development. The national focal point should be located at the highest possible policy-making level. It should oversee the coordination of all national activities in implementation of the Plan. It should be responsible for formulating a national plan of action on human resources development within the framework of the Plan. It should be empowered to promote the active participation of all sectors, including private enterprise, NGOs and other enabler groups and all social groups, as appropriate, in the implementation of the Plan. It should also serve as the national counterpart in and active member of the regionwide ESCAP Network of National Focal Points for Human Resources Development.

60. The majority of the 53 countries and areas in the region have already established national focal points for human resources development as called for in the original Jakarta Plan of Action. Experience in the implementation of the Plan has shown the effectiveness of national focal points that are located in strategic agencies able to influence national policy and planning. The effectiveness of the national focal points has also been enhanced where they have been given operational and budgetary autonomy. Governments should take into account these considerations and strengthen, where necessary, the capacity of their national focal points for human resources development to enable them to perform effectively their functions of coordinating the implementation of the Plan at the national level.

B. At the regional level

61. Overall responsibility for coordinating regional measures in support of the implementation of the Jakarta Plan of Action, as distinct from coordination of the implementation of national plans of action at the national level, rests with ESCAP. This is in line with General Assembly resolution 32/197 of 20 December 1977 on restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations, in which the regional commissions are directed to serve as the main general economic and social centres within the United Nations system for their respective regions. The General Assembly also calls on the regional commissions to exercise team leadership and responsibility for coordination and cooperation at the regional level. ESCAP fills this role for the Asian and Pacific region.

62. Important elements in the role of ESCAP in coordinating regional support for the implementation of the Plan include coordination of: assistance to countries in the formulation and implementation of national human resources development plans and policies; the provision of training to enhance the skills of government staff as well as personnel of NGOs in areas covered by the Plan; the conduct of research on regional human resources development issues; facilitating intraregional exchange of experience and expertise; the dissemination of regional information through the regionwide ESCAP Network of National Focal Points for Human Resources Development; and regular monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the Plan.

63. In order to promote regional cooperation in the implementation of the Plan, opportunities for the exchange of information and views on human resources development issues will be institutionalized by ESCAP. Studies on issues of direct concern to regional cooperation on human resources development will be undertaken and the results disseminated widely. Intergovernmental meetings and periodic consultations among the national focal points will be held. In addition, meetings of senior officials and ministerial conferences will be convened from time to time to consider special issues related to the implementation of the Plan. The participation of NGOs in these gatherings will be encouraged.

64. The concerned bodies and specialized agencies of the United Nations system, together with other intergovernmental organizations, will coordinate their various activities in support of human resources development in the region so as to ensure optimal utilization of resources. To facilitate this process, the Inter-agency Task Force on Human Resources Development chaired by ESCAP will meet periodically to strengthen cooperation and complementarity in the development and implementation of the work programmes of the agencies concerned.

IV. TIME-FRAME

65. The original Jakarta Plan of Action, adopted by the Commission in 1988, envisaged a three-phase programme covering the periods 1988-1991, 1992-1995 and 1996-2000. Phase I, covering 1988-1991, was to lay the institutional basis for the subsequent formulation and implementation of a coordinated series of human resources development projects at both the regional and national levels under phase II, covering 1992-1995.

66. Under phase I, the institutional framework for implementation of the Plan was laid through the establishment by Governments of national focal points for human resources development and through the setting up of the regionwide ESCAP Network of National Focal Points for Human Resources Development.

67. Under phase II, ESCAP, in cooperation with other United Nations bodies and agencies such as UNDP, ILO and UNESCO, implemented a series of human resources development pilot projects at both the national and regional levels in implementation of the Plan. Human resources development training programmes for the personnel of both government agencies and NGOs were also conducted. In addition, the ESCAP Human Resources Development Award was established to honour exemplary work in human resources development, advisory services were provided to Governments on request, research was conducted on various human resources development issues, and the publication of the *ESCAP HRD Newsletter* was initiated.

68. The current revision of the Plan focuses on the broader structural adjustments and institutional changes which were envisaged in the original Plan under phase III, initially intended to cover the period 1996-2000. The present revision of the Plan calls for the initiation of phase III in 1994. It is envisaged that, during that phase, Governments and other participating sectors will continue to work towards a more coordinated approach to human resources development, including the elaboration of comprehensive human resources development policies, plans and programmes in line with the new features of the revised Plan. ESCAP will continue to support such efforts, with particular emphasis on capacity-building at the national level, focusing on the training dimension.

69. Upon the completion of phase III of the Plan in the year 2000, the Commission will take stock of the progress achieved in its implementation, review the further work that may be required, and propose a new set of phased cycles in line with the region's changing needs and priorities.

50/8. Strengthening of subregional economic cooperation in North-East Asia[8]

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recognizing the need to promote and strengthen subregional economic cooperation as a stepping-stone to regional economic cooperation for the overall development and sustained growth of the ESCAP region as a whole,

Recalling its resolutions 47/1 of 10 April 1991 on the Seoul Declaration on Regional Cooperation, 48/1 of 23 April 1992 on the declaration on enhancing regional economic cooperation, known as the Beijing Declaration on Regional Economic Cooperation, and 49/1 of 29 April 1993 on the implementation of the action programme for regional economic cooperation in trade and investment,

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[8] See para. 230 above.

Recalling also its resolution 48/8 of 23 April 1992 concerning problems faced by the disadvantaged economies in transition in the ESCAP region, calling upon the secretariat to provide those economies with, *inter alia*, technical assistance in the process of economic reform and structural adjustment,

Noting with interest the initiative of ESCAP in successfully convening an informal consultative meeting among executive heads of subregional organizations to develop better interaction between ESCAP and those organizations,

Encouraged by the establishment of several growth areas and economic zones in Asia and the Pacific as an important step towards solving the practical problems of regional integration among members and associate members at different stages of economic development and even with different economic systems,

Noting in this context that a number of ideas and proposals have recently been put forward by countries, and by governmental and non-governmental organizations, to promote bilateral and multilateral cooperation and support the development efforts of countries in North-East Asia,

Noting also several other important multilateral initiatives that have already commenced, in particular, the Tumen River Area Development Programme, sponsored by the United Nations Development Programme,

Welcoming the recent steps taken under the auspices of ESCAP and the United Nations Development Programme by the countries of North-East Asia to enhance cooperation in environmental protection in the subregion,

Taking note that the North-East Asian subregion comprises both developed and developing countries, which have significant complementarities in terms of surplus capital and technological capabilities on the one hand, and labour force and rich natural and other resources on the other,

Expressing appreciation of the progress in the implementation of ESCAP projects on the Trans-Asian Railway and Asian Highway which would link, among others, countries and areas of North-East Asia, as well as its recent efforts to promote and strengthen trade and economic cooperation in the subregion,

Convinced of the need for overcoming many major difficulties deserving attention as well as other impediments to economic cooperation and development in North-East Asia, in particular, the bottlenecks in the development of infrastructure for trade and transport,

1. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to continue ESCAP initiatives and efforts in promoting subregional economic cooperation in general, and trade, investment, transport, communications and environmental cooperation for sustainable development in North-East Asia in particular;

2. *Requests* members and associate members to express their views on the ways and means of promoting subregional economic cooperation, such as in North-East Asia, as a stepping-stone to regional cooperation in the ESCAP region as a whole;

3. *Calls upon* members and associate members, bilateral and multilateral donors and international organizations to support ESCAP activities in promoting trade and economic and environmental cooperation for sustainable development in the North-East Asian subregion;

4. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to make a compilation of proposals on economic development and overall cooperation in North-East Asia, to be submitted, with preliminary comments, to the Steering Group of the Committee for Regional Economic Cooperation at its seventh meeting and, with a comprehensive report, to the Committee at its fifth session;

5. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary to report to the Commission at its fifty-second session on the implementation of the present resolution.

758th meeting
13 April 1994

50/9. Implementation of the Action Programme for Regional Economic Cooperation in Investment-related Technology Transfer[9]

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Bearing in mind Commission resolutions 235 (XL) of 27 April 1984 on the Tokyo Programme on Technology for Development in Asia and the Pacific, 256 (XLII) of 2 May 1986 on the ESCAP Plan of Action on National and Regional Initiatives for Human Resources Development: Its Technological Dimensions, 47/2 of 10 April 1991 on the Seoul Plan of Action for Promoting Industrial Restructuring in Asia and the Pacific, and 49/3 of 29 April 1993 on the Tehran Declaration on Strengthening Regional Cooperation for Technology-led Industrialization in Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling its resolution 48/1 of 23 April 1992 on the declaration on enhancing regional economic cooperation, known as the Beijing Declaration on Regional Economic Cooperation, in which it urged strongly that promotion of greater cooperation in science and technology should receive high priority in economic cooperation in Asia and the Pacific and in the Commission's deliberations,

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[9] See para. 212 above.

Recalling also its resolution 49/1 of 29 April 1993 on implementation of the action programme for regional economic cooperation in trade and investment,

Recognizing that the growing interdependence of the production structures, high growth, liberalization and more openness of regional economies, accompanied by the expansion of regional trade and investment, provide impetus for regional cooperation in science and technology,

Noting that technology can create and reorder comparative advantage among nations and that technology transfer remains the main avenue through which most developing countries seek technology-led development,

Noting also the potential for the further expansion of flows of technology to the region and among the countries of the region through regional cooperation, and the significance of the role of endogenous technological capability in determining the ability of countries to maximize benefits from foreign technologies,

Realizing the importance of investment-related technology transfer for sustainable economic development and endogenous technological capability-building, especially for least developed, land-locked, and island developing countries and the economies in transition,

Focusing on the Action Programme for Regional Economic Cooperation in Investment-related Technology Transfer, as endorsed by the Committee for Regional Economic Cooperation at its third session and further endorsed by the Commission at the present session,

Stressing the importance of involving ESCAP regional institutions and projects, such as the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology, the Regional Coordination Centre for Research and Development of Coarse Grains, Pulses, Roots and Tuber Crops in the Humid Tropics of Asia and the Pacific, and the Regional Network for Agricultural Machinery, in the implementation of the Action Programme,

1. *Requests* all members and associate members, and their private sectors, to support and participate actively in the implementation of the Action Programme, including facilitating the access to and provision of information on technology flows and technological capability-building efforts;

2. *Calls upon* the Executive Secretary to accord priority to the activities proposed in the Action Programme, within the limit of the resources available, paying special attention to the needs of the least developed, land-locked and island developing countries and economies in transition, and to the following:

(a) Enhancement of technology flows to and among the countries of the region;

(b) Promotion of technology transfer from the most advanced to the less advanced countries;

(c) Creation of a national climate conducive to the transfer and adoption of technology;

(d) Building up of endogenous technological capability for the transfer, adaptation, use and generation of technology;

(e) Technical cooperation among developing countries;

(f) Adequate involvement of ESCAP institutions;

3. *Invites* the United Nations Development Programme, the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, the Asian Development Bank and donor countries to enhance their involvement in technology transfer and capacity-building activities in the Asian and Pacific region by collaborating actively with ESCAP to address the expressed needs of the recipient countries in the implementation of the Action Programme;

4. *Urges* the relevant organizations of the United Nations system to cooperate with ESCAP in the planning and implementation of specific activities of the Action Programme to avoid duplication of effort and ensure effective utilization of available resources;

5. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to report annually, through the Committee for Regional Economic Cooperation, on the progress in the implementation of the Action Programme, beginning with the fifty-second session of the Commission.

758th meeting
13 April 1994

Annex I

REVISED PROGRAMME OF WORK AND PRIORITIES, 1994-1995

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Programme 31: Regional Cooperation for Development in Asia and the Pacific

Subprogramme 1: Regional economic cooperation

1.1 Parliamentary services

(i) *Parliamentary documentation:*

1-1-101 Annual summary of the survey of economic and social developments in the ESCAP region, to the Economic and Social Council

1-1-102 Reports to the Commission on the progress of activities in regional economic cooperation* (1 in 1994, 2 in 1995)

1-1-103 Reports on aspects of regional economic cooperation to the Committee for Regional Economic Cooperation* (1 in 1994, 3 in 1995)

1-1-104 Biannual reports to the Steering Group of the Committee for Regional Economic Cooperation* (2 in 1994, 2 in 1995)

1-1-105 Standing Committee of the Bangkok Agreement (1994)

1-1-106 Two reports to the commodities cooperative arrangements (1994, 1995)

1-1-107 One report to the meeting of the ESCAP network on trade facilitation (1995)

1-1-1081 Reports to the Commission on the implementation of the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade in the ESCAP region (annual) [1 postponed from 1992-1993]

1-1-109 Report to the Commission on implementation of the Delhi Declaration on Strengthening Regional Economic Cooperation in Asia and the Pacific towards the Twenty-first Century* (1995)

1-1-110 Report to the Commission on economic and technical cooperation among developing countries (1995)

1.2 Published materials

(i) *Recurrent publications:*

1-2-101 *Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific* (annual)*

1-2-102 *Asia-Pacific Development Journal* (2 in 1994, 2 in 1995)

1-2-103 *Development Papers* (1 in 1994, 1 in 1995)

1-2-104 *Regional Trade and Investment Review* (1995)**

1-2-105 *TISNET Trade Information Bulletin* (23 in 1994, 23 in 1995)*

1-2-106 *Prices of Selected Asia/Pacific Products* (12 in 1994, 12 in 1995)

1-2-107 *Directory of Trade Promotion/Development Organizations of Developing Countries and Areas in Asia and the Pacific*, seventh edition (1995)

1-2-108 *Industrial Development News for Asia and the Pacific* (1994, 1995)

1-2-109 *Small Industry Bulletin for Asia and the Pacific* (1994, 1995)

1-2-111 *Fertilizer Trade Information Monthly Bulletin* (12 in 1994, 12 in 1995)

1-2-1121 *Fertilizer Trade Information Monthly Bulletin* (XB) [1 postponed from 1992-1993]

(ii) *Non-recurrent publications:*

(1) Economic development issues:

1-2-21a Modelling and simulation of regional and subregional interlinked macroeconomic systems, with trade, investment and technology transfer as strategic variables

1-2-21b Macroeconomic management issues and economic reforms in the region's developing economies, within the framework of a changing global and regional economic environment

1-2-21c Promotion of intra- and inter-subregional economic cooperation with special attention to disadvantaged economies in transition

1-2-21d1 Macroeconomic policies on restructuring, stabilization and growth* [1 postponed from 1992-1993]

1-2-21e1 Tax reforms for balanced achievement of the objectives of productivity, efficiency, incentive, compliance and equity [1 postponed from 1992-1993]

(2) Trade and development finance issues:

1-2-22a Regional trade and investment issues (1994)

1-2-22b Linkages between Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) and the rest of the region (1995)**

1-2-22c Short-term impact of the single European market on Asia/Pacific economies (1994)

1-2-22d Impact of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) on the Asia/Pacific region (1995)

1-2-22e Trade profiles (1994, 1995)

1-2-22f Guidebook on a selected exportable product of the region (1994)**

1-2-22g1 Current issues and problems faced by the silk industry in the region [1 postponed from 1992-1993]

1-2-22h1 The development of other commodities of socio-economic importance to the region (three) [1 postponed from 1992-1993]

1-2-22i1 Trade review of the Bangkok Agreement (fourth quarter, 1991) [1 postponed from 1990-1991]

(3) Industrial and technological development:

1-2-23a Promotion of interregional and intraregional investment flows in industrial and technological development for manufacturing diversification and competitiveness (1994, 1995)

1-2-23c Regional cooperation measures for skills development to promote technology-led industrialization (1994, 1995)

1-2-23d Feasibility study for the establishment of a forum for promoting sustainable industrial and technological development (1994)

1-2-23e Technological transaction patterns for enhancing regional cooperation (1995)*

1-2-23f Capabilities for the acquisition and use of selected technologies (1994, 1995)*

1-2-23g Feasibility study on the establishment of a regional advisory centre for science and technology (1995)**

1-2-23h Directory of selected research and development institutions**

1-2-23i1 Guidelines for infrastructure and institutional/policy reforms of industrialization of least developed and island developing economies* [1 postponed from 1992-1993]

1-2-23j1 Studies on sectoral industrial development (third quarter, 1990 and 1991) [1 postponed from 1990-1991]

1-2-23k1 Manual on information, education and communication techniques for popularizing innovations in food technology (fourth quarter, 1991) [1 postponed from 1990-1991]

(iii) *Technical material:*

1-2-301 Provision of ad hoc technical information in response to requests from public sector organizations (1994, 1995)

1.3 Ad hoc expert groups and related work

1-3-001 Enhancement of technology flows from advanced developing countries to least developed countries (1994)

1-3-002 Promoting regional economic cooperation for industrial and technological skills development, including requirements for adopting new and emerging technologies (1994)

1-3-003 Inter-subregional cooperation in trade and investment (1994)

1-3-004 Development issues and policies (1994, 1995)

1-3-005 Standardization, quality control and related issues leading to the expansion of intraregional trade (1995)

1.4 Operational activities

(i) *Advisory services:*

1-4-101 Assistance to countries that are undergoing the process of transition to a market economy, least developed countries and geographically disadvantaged countries in the area of macroeconomic and trade policy issues**

1-4-102 Modelling and simulation of regional and subregional interlinked macroeconomic systems**

1-4-103 Promoting intra- and inter-subregional economic cooperation**

1-4-104 Expansion of intraregional trade**

1-4-105 Export promotion techniques and procedures and other trade promotion activities

1-4-106 Strengthening of the Regional Trade Information Network (TISNET)

1-4-107 International and regional trade fairs and exhibitions

1-4-108 Trade efficiency measures

1-4-109 Policy/strategy reorientation and institution-building for industrial development and restructuring, intraregional investment and joint ventures*

1-4-110 Strengthening capabilities for indigenous technological development and technology transfer, including new and emerging technology and promotion of environmentally sound technology

1-4-111 Technical consultancy services

1-4-112 Standardization and quality control

1-4-113 Technology management and support to the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology (APCTT)

1-4-114 Development of a regional investment information and promotion service (RIIPs) for Asia and the Pacific

(ii) *Group training, seminars and workshops:*

1-4-201 Modelling and simulation of regional and subregional interlinked macroeconomic systems

1-4-202 Macroeconomic management and economic reforms

1-4-203 Evolving patterns of complementarities and interdependence in the region

1-4-204 Intra- and inter-subregional economic cooperation in trade

1-4-205 Intraregional trade expansion policies*

1-4-206 Impact of the single European market and North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) on Asian and Pacific economies

1-4-207 Tariff and non-tariff barriers in agricultural commodities and manufactures trade, including environmental issues*

1-4-208 Enhancement of regional monetary cooperation**

1-4-209 Regional Trade Information Network (TISNET) and special trading arrangements

1-4-210 Technological developments and physical distribution techniques for expansion of trade**

1-4-211 Export promotion for economies in transition and Pacific island economies*

1-4-212 Trade/transit facilities for land-locked countries

1-4-213 Regional network of national research institutions for trade-related research*

1-4-214 Trade in services**

1-4-215 Promotion of exports of developing countries through trade fairs

1-4-216 Regional investment information and promotion service (RIIPs) database development

1-4-217 Regional investment complementarities

1-4-218 Development and improvement of agro- and allied industries, including agricultural machinery

1-4-219 Skills development, including entrepreneurship for small and medium industries

1-4-220 Private sector development

1-4-221 Women's participation in industry

1-4-222 Generation, transfer, adoption and use of conventional and new and emerging technologies**

1-4-223 Forum for sustainable industrial and technological development and restructuring

1-4-224 Intraregional investment and technology flows for strengthening capabilities in areas such as technical consultancy, standardization and quality control and technology management

1-4-225 Technology-blending for development of small and medium industries

1-4-226 Policy initiatives to achieve greater trade efficiency

1-4-227 Issues of interest to developing countries after the conclusion of the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations (1995)

1-4-228 Strengthening regional economic cooperation in Asia and the Pacific towards the twenty-first century

1.5 Coordination, harmonization and liaison

1-5-001 Participation in the Committee for Development Planning and the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC) Task Force on Long-term Development Objectives and ACC Task Force on Science and Technology; coordination with other relevant institutions/organizations within and outside the United Nations system on related matters

1-5-002 Meetings to promote inter-subregional cooperation in coordination with subregional organizations (1994, 1995)

Subprogramme 2: Environment and sustainable development

2.1 Parliamentary services

(i) *Parliamentary documentation:*

2-1-101 Annual report to the Commission on the progress of activities in environment and sustainable development*

2-1-102 Nine reports to the Committee on selected issues in relation to the implementation of Agenda 21*

2-1-118 Five reports for the ministerial conference on space applications for development (1994)*

2-1-119 Eight reports to the ministerial conference on environment and development (1995)*

2-1-120 Two reports for the Inter-agency Committee on Environment and Development (1994, 1995)

2.2 Published materials

(i) *Recurrent publications:*

2-2-101 *Remote Sensing Newsletter* (4 in 1994, 4 in 1995)

2-2-102 *Asian-Pacific Remote Sensing Journal* (2 in 1994, 2 in 1995)

2-2-103 *ESCAP Environment News* (4 in 1994, 4 in 1995)

2-2-104 *Environment News Briefing — A Selection from the Region's Press* (12 in 1994, 12 in 1995)

2-2-105 *Agro-chemicals News in Brief* (6 in 1994, 6 in 1995)

2-2-106 *RISS: Regional Information Support Service on Agro-chemicals* (13 issues in 1994, 13 issues in 1995)

2-2-107 *Calendar of Meetings on Agro-chemicals* (4 in 1994, 4 in 1995)

2-2-108 *Water Resources Journal* (4 in 1994, 4 in 1995)

2-2-109 *Confluence* (2 in 1994, 2 in 1995)

2-2-110 Water Resources Series (1994, 1995)

2-2-111 *ESCAP Energy News* (2 in 1994, 2 in 1995)

2-2-112 Energy Resources Development Series (1995)

2-2-113 *Electric Power in Asia and the Pacific* (1994)

2-2-114 *Atlas of Mineral Resources* (1994, 1995)

2-2-1151 *Regional Information Support Service on Agro-chemicals* (monthly) (XB) [3 postponed from 1992-1993]

2-2-1161 *Agro-chemical News in Brief* (quarterly) (XB) [1 postponed from 1992-1993]

2-2-1171 *Agro-chemicals News in Brief* (special issues, two issues per year) [2 postponed from 1992-1993]

2-2-1181 *Environmental News Briefing — A Selection from the Region's Press* (monthly, XB) [1 postponed from 1992-1993]

(ii) *Non-recurrent publications.*

(1) Policies and plans for environment and sustainable development:

2-2-21a Environment and economics: tools and methodologies for sustainable development (1994, 1995)**

2-2-21b Environmentally sound and healthy cities in Asia (1994)

2-2-21c Report on the state of the environment and development (1995)*

2-2-21d Population and environment dynamics, poverty and the quality of life (1995)

2-2-21e Integration of environmental considerations in economic decision-making

(2) Environment and development:

2-2-22a Sustainable agricultural development strategies (1994, 1995)

2-2-22b Supply, marketing, distribution and safe use of fertilizer (1994, 1995)

2-2-22c Clean technologies: options for sustainable development (1995)

2-2-22d Environmental impact of air pollution on urban/industrial centres (1994)**

2-2-22e1 Supply, marketing, distribution and use of fertilizers (three) (XB) [1 postponed from 1992-1993]

2-2-22f1 ARSAP/CIRAD agro-pesticide index (fourth quarter, 1990) [1 postponed from 1990-1991]

(3) Natural resources development and management:

2-2-23a Water resources of member countries and demands by user sectors — phase III (1995)

2-2-23b Geographic information systems/land information system (GIS/LIS) and remote sensing in land-use planning and desertification and soil erosion mapping (1995)

2-2-23c Earth space information application to agriculture/fisheries resource management (1995)

2-2-23d Resource assessment, development and management (1994)**

2-2-23e Geology for land-use planning and environmental management (1994, 1995)

2-2-23f Technological advances in treating wastes as resources (1994)**

2-2-23g Marine environment and non-living marine resources development (1995)

2-2-23h Mineral concentrations and hydrocarbon accumulations (1994)

2-2-23i1 Mineral Concentration and Hydrocarbon Accumulation Series (annual) [1 postponed from 1992-1993]

(4) Energy development and management:

2-2-24a Energy efficiency guidebook for the Asia-Pacific region (1995)**

2-2-24b New and renewable sources of energy supply and environmental management (1995)**

2-2-24c Private sector participation in power generation and its consequences for environmental quality (1994)

2-2-24d1 Case-studies on environmentally sound energy development and utilization** [1 postponed from 1992-1993]

(5) Natural disaster reduction:

2-2-25a Seismic and volcanic monitoring systems (1994)

(6) Manuals, guidelines and rosters relating to environment and sustainable development:

2-2-26a Environmental impact assessment guidelines to be utilized in fertilizers and pesticides (1994, 1995)*

2-2-26b Manual for agricultural extension agents on environmental issues related to fertilization (1995)

2-2-26c Manual on the environmentally sound management of national parks and reserves (1994)**

2-2-26d Guidelines on the participatory approach to urban environmental management (1995)

2-2-26e Operational aspects of Agenda 21 (1994)

2-2-26f Guidelines on water and sustainable development (1995)**

2-2-26g Roster of regional experts and institutions on conservation and efficient utilization of energy (1994)

2-2-26h Guideline/manual on GIS and remote sensing for planners and decision makers

2-2-26i1 Directory of fertilizer-related information (XB) [1 postponed from 1992-1993]

2-2-26j1 Reference book on environment in Asia and the Pacific (XB)** [1 postponed from 1992-1993]

2-2-26k1 Guidebook on environmental reporting [1 postponed from 1992-1993]

(7) Proceedings of meetings relating to environment and sustainable development:

2-2-27a Regional information service (1995)**

2-2-27b Socio-economic implications of global environmental issues in Asia and the Pacific (1995)

2-2-27c Tropical ecosystem management (1994)**

2-2-27d Remote sensing and GIS for land and marine applications in the South Pacific (1994)**

2-2-27e Protection of water resources, water quality and aquatic ecosystems (1995)

(iii) *Technical material:*

2-2-301 Illustrated pesticide safety guide, translated or reprinted into local languages

2-2-302 Update on the sectoral energy demand database and analysis of the energy situation in Asia

2-2-303 Update of energy planning software**

2-2-304 Database on pesticides and the environment, phase I

2.3 Ad hoc expert groups and related work

2-3-001 Analysis of linkages between population factors and sustainable development

2-3-002 Protection of water resources, water quality and aquatic ecosystems*

2-3-003 Energy resiliency and integration of environmental policy in energy development and management*

2-3-004 Government policies on assessment, development and management in the minerals sector

2.4 Operational activities

(i) *Advisory services:*

2-4-101 Implementation of Agenda 21, including management of critical ecosystems

2-4-102 Asia-Pacific Forum of Environmental Journalists

2-4-103 Environment and sustainable development, and safe management of fertilizer and pesticides

2-4-104 Agro-chemicals and the environment under the FADINAP/ARSAP network of advisory and information systems

2-4-105 Population, environment and sustainable development

2-4-106 Urban environment management

2-4-107 Building up technological capabilities for the application of environmentally sound technologies for industrial restructuring

2-4-108 Mineral resource assessment and development, including implementation of technical support projects and provision of technical support services in this field*

2-4-109 Water resources supply and demand assessment and water-related disasters*

2-4-110 Environmental geology and geology for land-use planning*

2-4-111 Mineral policy and economics, legislation and investment promotion*

2-4-112 Remote sensing and GIS, with emphasis on institution-building

2-4-114 Energy development, conservation and management policy, environmental impact and risk assessment

2-4-115 Energy resource options and technologies

2-4-116 New and renewable sources in energy mixes

2-4-117 Rural energy supply

2-4-118 Electricity demand management

(ii) *Group training, seminars and workshops:*

2-4-201 Sustainable agricultural development for least developed countries*

2-4-202 Environmentally sound development and management in the area of fertilizers and pesticides

2-4-203 National parks and reserves

2-4-204 Healthy cities

2-4-205 Industrial and urban development in coastal areas

2-4-206 Implementation of Agenda 21

2-4-207 Waste management audit and technology**

2-4-208 Assessment and dissemination of environmentally sound technology

2-4-209 Population and environment dynamics, poverty and the quality of life

2-4-210 Energy efficiency*

2-4-211 Energy resource options and technologies*

2-4-212 Electric power system management*

2-4-213 GIS/LIS and remote sensing for land-use planning

2-4-214 Desertification/soil erosion mapping

2-4-215 Tropical ecosystem management

2-4-216 Regional information service

2-4-217 Monitoring, mapping and sampling techniques for resource assessment

2-4-218 Remote sensing/GIS integration for resource management

2-4-219 Mineral resource economics, legislation and development

2-4-220 Integrated water resources development and management and flood loss prevention

2-4-221 Women's role in the provision, management and safeguarding of water**

2-4-222 Water and sustainable development

2-4-223 The use of underground space for confinement of wastes**

2-4-224 Integrated marine policies**

2-4-225 Mineral resource assessment and development techniques

2-4-226 Geological factors of land-use planning and resource accounting

2-4-228 New and renewable sources of energy with emphasis on rural energy supply*

2-4-229 Energy environment interface

2-4-230 Integration of environmental considerations in economic decision-making

2.5 Coordination, harmonization and liaison

2-5-001 Committee on Natural Resources (Headquarters), Typhoon Committee, Panel on Tropical Cyclones, Interim Committee for Coordination of Investigations of the Lower Mekong Basin, CCOP, SOPAC, IOMAC and South-East Asia Tin Research and Development Centre (SEATRADC)

2-5-002 Inter-secretariat Coordinating Meeting on Space Applications

2-5-003 Interagency Task Force on Water for Asia and the Pacific, ACC Intersecretariat Group for Water, Steering Committee for Water Supply and Sanitation, International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction Secretariat

2-5-004 South Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), ASEAN Senior Officials on Environment (ASOEN) and South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme (SACEP)

2-5-005 Regional Network of Research and Training Institutions on Desertification Control

2-5-006 Regional Network of Environment and Economic Policy Research Institutes

2-5-007 Regional Working Group on Marine Environment and Oceanographic Studies

2-5-008 Commission on Sustainable Development

2-5-009 Asia-Pacific Forum of Environmental Journalists

2-5-010 Inter-agency Committee on Environment and Development

2-5-011 Committee on New and Renewable Sources of Energy and Energy for Development (Headquarters), and regional working groups in various energy subsectors

2-5-012 Other governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and their bodies on matters related to the subprogramme

Subprogramme 3: Poverty alleviation through economic growth and social development

3.1 Parliamentary services

(i) *Parliamentary documentation:*

3-1-101 Reports to the Commission on progress on activities carried out under the subprogramme (annual)*

3-1-102 Report to the Commission on the Second Asian and Pacific Ministerial Conference on Women in Development (1995)*

3-1-103 Report to the Commission on the Asian and Pacific Ministerial Conference in Preparation for the World Summit for Social Development (1994)*

3-1-105 Report to the Committee on factors giving rise to poverty (1995)*

3-1-106 Report to one session of the Committee on major economic trends, activities and policies and their impact on employment, income distribution, poverty and environment (1995)*

3-1-107 Report to the Committee on progress in the implementation of ESCAP resolutions 274 (XLIV) and 48/6 concerning the Jakarta Plan of Action on Human Resources Development in the ESCAP Region (1995)*

3-1-108 Report to the Committee on implementation of resolution 48/3 on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons (1995)*

3-1-109 Report to one session of the Committee on population issues relating to poverty alleviation strategies, policies and programmes (1995)*

3-1-110 Report to one session of the Committee on issues relating to agriculture and rural development (1995)*

3-1-112 Report to the Committee on implementation of the regional action plan on urbanization (1995)*

3-1-115 Report to the Committee on issues concerning women in development (1995)*

3-1-116 Report to the Committee on selected successful experience in science and technology in rural areas (1995)*

3-1-117 Reports to the Second Asian and Pacific Ministerial Conference on Women in Development (1994)*

3-1-118 Report to the International Conference on Population and Development (1994)*

3-1-119 Reports to the Asian and Pacific Ministerial Conference in Preparation for the World Summit for Social Development (1994)*

3-1-120 Report to the Commission on strengthening regional cooperation in human resources development (1995)

3.2 Published materials

(i) *Recurrent publications:*

3-2-101 *Social Development Newsletter* (2 in 1994, 2 in 1995)

3-2-102 *Women-in-Development Newsletter* (2 in 1994, 2 in 1995)

3-2-103 *Asia-Pacific Population Journal* (4 in 1994, 4 in 1995)

3-2-104 *Population Headliners* (2 in 1994, 2 in 1995)

3-2-105 *Demographic Data Sheet* (1994, 1995)**

3-2-106 *Newsletter on Poverty Alleviation Initiatives* (2 in 1994, 2 in 1995)

3-2-1071 *Population Research Leads* (three issues per year) (XB) [1 postponed from 1992-1993]

3-2-1081 *Asia-Pacific POPIN Bulletin* (quarterly (XB)) [1 postponed from 1992-1993]

(ii) *Non-recurrent publications:*

(1) Human resources development:

3-2-21a Jakarta Plan of Action on Human Resources Development in the ESCAP Region: revised edition (1995)

3-2-21b Fiscal incentives to support the growth and viability of NGOs in support of human resources development (1994)

3-2-21c Strengthening regional cooperation in human resources development

(2) Socia policy, social services and social security:

3-2-22a The role of NGOs in implementation of the social development strategy for the ESCAP region (1995)

3-2-22b Legislation on equal opportunities and full participation in development for disabled persons (1994)

3-2-22c Implementation of the United Nations mandates on juvenile justice administration in the ESCAP region, with a focus on youth in poverty (1994)

3-2-22d1 The quality of life in the ESCAP region (XB) [1 postponed from 1992-1993]

(3) Women in development:

3-2-23a Asian and Pacific plan of action for the advancement of the status of women (1995)

3-2-23b Study on population change, women's role and status and development (1994)

(4) Population and migration:

3-2-24a Changing family structure and its implications for poverty alleviation (1995)

3-2-24b Trends in urbanization with special reference to rural-urban migration (1995)*

3-2-24c Fertility and family planning, including the development and strengthening of management information systems (1995)

3-2-24d Proceedings of the Senior Officials Meeting on Targets and Goals of the Bali Declaration on Population and Sustainable Development: Implementation Strategy (1994)

3-2-24e1 Population and environment dynamics, poverty and the quality of life (XB) [1 postponed from 1992-1993]

3-2-24f1 Trends, patterns and the implications for rural-urban migration (XB) [1 postponed from 1992-1993]

3-2-24g1 Accessibility of contraceptives in selected countries (XB)** [1 postponed from 1992-1993]

3-2-24h1 Study on urbanization and the status of women [1 postponed from 1988-1989]

(5) Growth strategies and structural reform:

3-2-25a Regional information base on poverty issues (1994)*

3-2-25b Causes, characteristics and consequences of poverty (1995)*

3-2-25c Role of the informal service sector in poverty alleviation (1995)

(6) Agriculture and rural development series:

3-2-26a Compendium of inter-agency work programmes on rural development (1994)

3-2-26b Impact of target group-oriented policies and institutional support programmes on rural poverty alleviation, rural industrialization and employment creation (1994)

3-2-26c Communication strategies for rural poverty alleviation (1994)

3-2-26d Successful experience in the introduction and utilization of science and technology in rural areas (1994)

(7) Human settlements and urbanization:

3-2-27a Innovative infrastructure and service delivery in low-income settlements (1995)

3-2-27b Review of current research in urban issues (1994)

3-2-27c Impact of innovative settlements-based poverty alleviation programmes (1995)

3-2-27d1 Training modules on subnational planning for development of secondary cities** [1 postponed from 1992-1993]

(8) Manuals, guidelines and annotated bibliography series:

3-2-28a Guidelines for national programmes of action in implementation of the social development strategy for the ESCAP region (1995)

3-2-28b Training manual for the development of community-based approaches to drug abuse demand reduction (1994)

3-2-28c Guidelines for the promotion of non-handicapping physical environments for disabled persons (1995)

3-2-28d Guidelines on the development of comprehensive national policies on ageing (1995)

3-2-28e Annotated bibliography on policy and programme issues in the field of ageing (1995)

3-2-28f Manuals on population information networking and database development (1994, 1995)**

3-2-28g Guidelines for the activities of national and local "urban forums" (1995)*

3-2-28h1 Directory of non-governmental organizations and community-based organizations active in human settlements [1 postponed from 1992-1993]

(iii) *Technical material:*

3-2-301 Training material on the role of the private sector in human resources development (1994)

3-2-302 Translations of "Establishing and strengthening self-help organizations of disabled persons" into five national languages, and into English Braille (1995)

3-2-303 Regional database on women in development (1995)

3-2-304 Asia-Pacific POPIN databank

3-2-305 Fact sheets on drug demand reduction (1994)

3-2-306 Inventory of centres of excellence in Asia and the Pacific

3.3 Ad hoc expert groups and related work

3-3-001 Review and revision of the Jakarta Plan of Action on Human Resources Development in the ESCAP Region (1994)

3-3-002 Linkages between population and poverty (1994)

3-3-003 Regional preparations for the World Summit for Social Development (1994)

3-3-004 Regional preparations for the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) (1995)

3-3-005 Regional preparations for the Fourth World Conference on Women (1994)

3-3-006 Regional cooperation in human resources development (1994)

3.4 Operational activities

(i) *Advisory services:*

3-4-101 Formulation of macroeconomic national policies for poverty alleviation**

3-4-102 Human resources development planning and programming

3-4-103 Social Development Strategy for the ESCAP Region*

3-4-104 Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons

3-4-105 Youth crime prevention and the treatment of young offenders

3-4-106 Asian and Pacific plan of action for the advancement of the status of women*

3-4-107 National women's information centres

3-4-108 Implementation of the Bali declaration on Population and Sustainable Development*

3-4-109 Population information centres and networks within the framework of the Population Information Network (POPIN)

3-4-110 Urbanization and subnational area planning

3-4-111 CITYNET, on promotion of NGO/city cooperation**

3-4-112 Programmes on settlements-based poverty alleviation

(ii) *Group training, seminars and workshops:*

3-4-201 Development of a comprehensive information base on poverty issues

3-4-202 Causes, characteristics and consequences of poverty

3-4-204 Role of the informal service sector in poverty alleviation**

3-4-205 ESCAP network of national focal points for human resources development

3-4-206 Role of the private sector in human resources development**

3-4-207 Government-non-governmental organization cooperation in the planning and delivery of basic services to the poor

3-4-208 Participation of women in politics as an aspect of human resources development

3-4-209 Critical social issues in poverty alleviation

3-4-210 Implementation of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons

3-4-211 Alleviation of poverty among women

3-4-212 Establishment and strengthening of national women's information centres

3-4-213 Implementation of the Asian and Pacific plan of action for the advancement of the status of women (1995)*

3-4-214 Demographic analysis, demographic estimates and projections

3-4-215 Asia-Pacific POPIN network

3-4-216 Target group-oriented policies and programmes for rural development

3-4-217 Impact of market reforms and price liberalization on agriculture and rural development

3-4-218 Rural industrialization and communication strategies for rural poverty alleviation and employment creation

3-4-219 Institutional support programmes for rural poverty alleviation

3-4-220 Introduction, utilization and assessment of conventional and new technologies in rural areas

3-4-221 Infrastructure and services in low-income settlements

3-4-222 Subnational area planning in the urbanization process

3-4-223 Regional urban forum and regional network of human settlements research and training institutes on alleviation of urban poverty and settlements-based poverty alleviation programmes

3-4-224 Distance education as an aspect of human resources development

3.5 Coordination, harmonization and liaison

3-5-001 ACC Task Force on Rural Development**

3-5-002 Inter-agency Committee on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific

3-5-003 Inter-organizational Task Force on the Ministerial Conference on Urbanization

3.6 Information materials and services

3-6-001 Information kit for the Second Asian and Pacific Ministerial Conference on Women in Development (1994)

3-6-002 Exhibits for the Second Asian and Pacific Ministerial Conference on Women in Development (1994)

Subprogramme 4: Transport and communications

4.1 Parliamentary services

(i) *Parliamentary documentation:*

4-1-101 Report to the Economic and Social Council on phase II (1992-1996) of the Transport and Communications Decade for Asia and the Pacific (1994)*

4-1-102 Annual report to the Commission on the progress of the work carried out under this subprogramme*

4-1-103 Report to the Committee on factors affecting the growth and development of transport and communications infrastructure and services in the ESCAP region (1995)*

4-1-104 Report to the Committee on development of land transport linkages and facilitation measures (1995)*

4-1-105 Report to the Committee on implementation of the regional action programme for phase II (1992-1996) of the Transport and Communications Decade for Asia and the Pacific (1995)*

4-1-106 Report to the Committee on development and perspective of waterborne transport (1995)*

4-1-107 Report to the Committee on tourism development*

4-1-108 Report to the Intergovernmental Meeting on phase II (1992-1996) of the Transport and Communications Decade for Asia and the Pacific (1994)*

4-1-109 Report to the Commission on the study on infrastructure development as key to economic cooperation (1994)*

4-1-110 One report to the General Assembly on the implementation of its resolution 48/177 on resource mobilization for the implementation of the regional action programme for phase II (1992-1996) of the Transport and Communication Decade for Asia and the Pacific (1994)*

4.2 Published materials

(i) *Recurrent publications:*

4-2-101 *Review of Developments in Transport, Communications and Tourism* (1995)*

4-2-102 *Transport and Communications Bulletin for Asia and the Pacific* (1994, 1995)**

4-2-103 *Decade News* (2 issues each in 1994, 1995)

4-2-104 *ESCAP Tourism Review* (one in 1994, two in 1995)*

4-2-105 *ESCAP Tourism Newsletter* (1994, 1995)

4-2-1061 *ESCAP Tourism Newsletter* (semi-annual)** [1 postponed from 1992-1993]

4-2-1071 *Transport and Communications Bulletin for Asia and the Pacific* (annual) [1 postponed from 1992-1993]

4-2-1081 Asian Highway route maps (annual) [2 postponed from 1992-1993]

(ii) *Non-recurrent publications:*

4-2-201 Development of multimodal transport (1994)*

4-2-202 Manpower resources in the shipping industry (1995)

4-2-203 Road safety in the region (1994)

4-2-204 Railway break-of-gauge problems (1995)*

4-2-205 Prospects for container shipping and port development (1994)

4-2-206 Development of the freight forwarding industry (1995)**

4-2-207 Development of urban transport (1995)

4-2-208 Improving the management/operation of inland water transport (1995)

4-2-209 Transport financial/economic models - inland water transport module (1994)

4-2-210 Commercialization of transport business undertakings (1994)*

4-2-211 Computerized asset management system (ports) (1994)

4-2-212 Upgrading of dredging (1995)**

4-2-213 Land transport linkages development in newly independent States of Central Asia (1994)

4-2-214 Asian Highway network development (1994)*

4-2-215 Promotion of tourism, with emphasis on policy issues to maximize its socio-economic benefits*

4-2-216 Policy issues for expansion of tourism, strengthening of regional cooperation and promotion of intraregional tourism

4-2-217 Tourism development in the Mekong River area (1 in 1994, 2 in 1995)*

4-2-218 Asian Highway Map (revised edition) (1994)

4-2-219 Study on infrastructure development as key to economic growth and regional economic cooperation (1994)*

4-2-220 The development of intermodal transport (XB) [1 postponed from 1992-1993]

4-2-221 The status and requirements of dredging (XB) [1 postponed from 1992-1993]

4-2-222 Training in urban transport planning (XB) [1 postponed from 1992-1993]

(iii) *Technical material:*

4-2-301 Database for maritime policy planning models (1994-1995)

4-2-302 Database and information system on the regional action programme (1994-1995)*

4-2-303 Transport financial/economic planning models (1994-1995)

4.3 Ad hoc expert groups and related work

4-3-001 Trans-Asian Railway route requirements (1995)

4-3-002 Inland water transport training and information system (1995)

4-3-003 Commercialization and modes of involving private sector participation in ports, related activities, dredging and inland waterways (1995)

4.4 Operational activities

(i) *Advisory services:*

4-4-101 Institutional development

4-4-102 Transport and communications operations

4-4-103 Multimodal transport and logistics

4-4-104 Commercialization of transport and communications operations

4-4-105 Environment, safety and health in transport

4-4-106 Strengthening of national capabilities in the expansion of tourism

(ii) *Group training, seminars and workshops:*

4-4-201 Institutional development

4-4-202 Transport and communications operations

4-4-203 Human resources development

4-4-204 Multimodal transport and logistics

4-4-205 Commercialization of transport and communications operations

4-4-206 Environment, safety and health in transport

4-4-207 Strengthening of national capabilities in the expansion of tourism*

4.5 Coordination, harmonization and liaison

4-5-001 Interregional coordination with ESCWA for phase II (1992-1996) of the Transport and Communications Decade for Asia and the Pacific

4-5-002 Coordination and liaison with the World Tourism Organization

4.6 Information materials and services

4-6-001 Exhibit for the Committee on Transport and Communications (1995)**

Subprogramme 5: Statistics

5.1 Parliamentary services

(i) *Parliamentary documentation:*

5-1-101 Biennial report to the Commission on the progress of work carried out under the subprogramme*

5-1-102 Reports to the Committee on Statistics (1994)*

5-1-103 Reports to other subsidiary bodies of the Commission

5.2 Published materials

(i) *Recurrent publications:*

5-2-101 *Sample Surveys in the ESCAP Region* (1995)**

5-2-102 *Statistical Newsletter* (4 in 1994, 4 in 1995)**

5-2-103 *Statistical Yearbook for Asia and the Pacific* (1994, 1995)

5-2-104 *Foreign Trade Statistics of Asia and the Pacific* (1994, 1995)

5-2-105 *Statistical Indicators for Asia and the Pacific* (4 in 1994, 4 in 1995)

5-2-106 *Asia-Pacific in Figures* (1994, 1995)

5-2-107 *Government Computerization Newsletter* (2 in 1994, 2 in 1995)**

5-2-1081 *Statistical Newsletter* (quarterly) [1 postponed from 1992-1993]

5-2-1091 *Government Computerization Newsletter* (biannual)** [1 postponed from 1992-1993]

(ii) *Non-recurrent publications:*

5-2-201 Social and economic statistics and environmental accounting (1994, 1995)

5-2-202 Guidelines for the collection of environment data (1995)

5-2-2031 Statistical profiles by subregion (one) [1 postponed from 1992-1993]

5-2-2041 Operational handbook on environmental indicators (XB) [1 postponed from 1992-1993]

(iii) *Technical material:*

5-2-301 Compilation and dissemination of data on social indicators (1994-1995)

5-2-302 Processing of data received from countries on national average prices and on expenditure (International Comparison Programme) (1994-1995)

5-2-303 Development of statistical databases: continuation of work on a network of general and sectoral/thematic-specific numerical databases within the secretariat, as part of the United Nations Economic and Social Information System (1994-1995)**

5-2-304 Responses to requests for statistical information from users outside and within the secretariat, particularly in support of thematic analyses and studies, including data on investment flows (1994-1995)

5.3 Ad hoc expert groups and related work

5-3-001 Working Group of Statistical Experts (1995)*

5-3-002 Working Group of Experts on Government Computerization (1995)

5.4 Operational activities

(i) *Advisory services:*

5-4-101 Organizational and institutional issues affecting national statistical services

5-4-102 Utilization of existing data on poverty

5-4-103 Planning, conduct, processing and analysis of population censuses and surveys

5-4-104 Implementation of the revised System of National Accounts (SNA)

5-4-105 Implementation of phase VI of the International Comparison Programme in the ESCAP region

5-4-106 Various aspects of economic statistics and sample surveys, including for economies in transition

5-4-107 Design and development of government information systems

(ii) *Group training, seminars and workshops:*

5-4-201 Improved management and organization of national statistical services*

5-4-202 Workshop on methodologies of poverty measurement*

5-4-203 Meetings on population statistics

5-4-204 Selected aspects of human development indicators, including meetings on the development of statistics on women*

5-4-206 Subregional workshops on implementation of the revised System of National Accounts (SNA)*

5-4-207 Workshop to review data inputs for phase VI of the International Comparison Programme in the ESCAP region

5-4-208 Workshop on trade/services statistics**

5-4-209 Regional seminars on environment statistics and environmental accounting

5-4-210 Training workshops on the design and development of government information systems

(iii) *Field project:*

5-4-301 Technical and substantive support to the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (SIAP)*

5.5 Coordination, harmonization and liaison

5-5-001 Coordination with intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, and other programmes will be undertaken *inter alia* through the United Nations Statistical Commission, the Administrative Committee on Coordination Subcommittee on Statistical Activities and its Technical Working Group on Statistical Databases and the Advisory Committee for the Coordination of Information Systems

Subprogramme 6: Least developed, land-locked and island developing countries

6.1 Parliamentary services

(i) *Parliamentary documentation:*

6-1-101 Annual report to the Commission on the progress of work carried out under the subprogramme*

6-1-102 Reports to the Special Body on Least Developed and Land-locked Developing Countries (biennial)*

6-1-103 Reports to the Special Body on Pacific Island Developing Countries (1994, 1995)*

6.2 Published materials

(i) *Non-recurrent publications:*

6-2-201 Economic and financial reforms for sustainable development of the least developed countries**

6-2-202 Regional cooperation in support of the economic and social development of the least developed countries

6-2-203 Review, monitoring and assistance in the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s*

6-2-204 Island developing countries: major issues and implications for macroeconomic and sectoral development policy and planning associated with greater economic and technical cooperation for development, especially with East and South-East Asia*

6-2-205 Island developing countries: the potential and modalities for closer subregional and/or regional cooperation in trade and investment

6-2-206 Transport planning development for land-locked countries

6-2-2071 Economic aspects of social, environmental and human resources development issues in selected least developed countries** [1 postponed from 1992-1993]

(ii) *Technical material:*

6-2-301 Database on inter-island shipping (1994-1995)

6.4 Operational activities

(i) *Advisory services:*

6-4-101 Strengthening economic cooperation between least developed countries and other developing countries**

6-4-102 Integrating population factors into development and policy planning

6-4-103 Island developing countries: selected aspects of development policy management and reforms of development policy and planning**

(ii) *Group training, seminars and workshops:*

6-4-201 Country-level training courses on preparation of a quantitative macroeconomic framework (model) for policy design/evaluation in the least developed countries

6-4-202 Mid-term review of progress in the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s*

6-4-203 National workshops and a regional seminar on improving the access of women to formal credit and financial institutions in the least developed countries

6-4-204 Regional cooperation in support of the economic and social development of least developed countries

6-4-205 Economic stabilization, liberalization and deregulation in Pacific island economies

6-4-206 Small ship management/operation between island developing countries

6-4-207 Basic demographic analysis training course for Pacific island countries

6.5 Coordination, harmonization and liaison

6-5-001 Coordination with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and other organizations within and outside the United Nations system, in the review and implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s and on activities relating to island developing countries

Annex II

STATEMENT OF PROGRAMME BUDGET IMPLICATIONS OF ACTIONS AND PROPOSALS OF THE COMMISSION

1. In the implementation of the resolutions adopted at the fiftieth session of the Commission, there are no financial implications for the regular budget of the United Nations over and above the amount budgeted to cover the substantive and backstopping activities already envisaged in the programme of work, 1994-1995. Should any additional costs arise, they would be offset by programme support cost income received.

2. Regular budget resources will be requested in the programme budget cost estimates for the biennium 1996-1997 in order to implement the activities listed in paragraph 7 of resolution 50/7 on the update of the Jakarta Plan of Action on Human Resources Development in the ESCAP Region.

3. For six of the nine resolutions adopted at the fiftieth session of the Commission, extrabudgetary resources will be sought for implementation of the planned activities.

Annex III

MEETINGS OF SUBSIDIARY BODIES HELD DURING THE PERIOD UNDER REVIEW

Subsidiary body and officers		*Session*	*Document symbol of report*[a]
Committee on Poverty Alleviation through Economic Growth and Social Development		First session Bangkok 20-24 September 1993	E/ESCAP/939
Chairperson:	K.M. Rabbani (Bangladesh)		
Vice-Chairpersons:	Nirmala Buch (India)		
	Lina B. Laigo (Philippines)		
Rapporteur:	Timoci R. Rasovo (Fiji)		
Committee on Environment and Sustainable Development		First session Bangkok 4-8 October 1993	E/ESCAP/936
Chairperson:	R. Rajamani (India)		
Vice-Chairpersons:	Cielito F. Habito (Philippines)		
	D. Nesiah (Sri Lanka)		
	Zhong Shukong (China)		
	Surna T. Djajadiningrat (Indonesia)		
	Ashkat Khabibullaev (Uzbekistan)		
Rapporteur:	Fred M. Castro (Guam)		
Steering Group of the Committee for Regional Economic Cooperation		Third meeting Tokyo 12-15 October 1993	E/ESCAP/REC(3)/1
Chairperson:	Yukio Takeuchi (Japan)		
Vice-Chairpersons:	Rio Rachwartono (Indonesia)		

[a] Copies of reports that are not available through normal distribution channels at United Nations Headquarters or at Geneva may be obtained from the Regional Commissions New York Office at United Nations Headquarters.

Subsidiary body and officers		*Session*	*Document symbol of report*[a]
Steering Group of the Committee for Regional Economic Cooperation (*continued*)			
Vice-Chairpersons: (*continued*)	M. Mubeen Ahsan (Pakistan)		
	L. Demberel (Mongolia)		
Rapporteur:	Sarita Shanta Mani (Fiji)		
Ministerial Conference on Urbanization in Asia and the Pacific		Bangkok 1-2 November 1993	ST/ESCAP/1334
Chairperson:	Chavalit Yongchaiyudh (Thailand)		
Vice-Chairpersons:	Ahmad Shah Ahmadzai (Afghanistan)		
	Brian Leslie Howe (Australia)		
	Rafiqul Islam Mia (Bangladesh)		
	T. Tobgyel (Bhutan)		
	Li Zhendong (China)		
	Militoni Leweniqila (Fiji)		
	P.K. Thungon (India)		
	Radinal Mochtar (Indonesia)		
	Abbass Ahmad-Akhundi (Islamic Republic of Iran)		
	Bouathong Vonglokham (Lao People's Democratic Republic)		
	Ting Chew Peh (Malaysia)		
	U Khin Muang Yin (Myanmar)		
	Bal Bahadur Rai (Nepal)		
	John Jaminan (Papua New Guinea)		

Subsidiary body and officers		*Session*	*Document symbol of report*[a]
Ministerial Conference on Urbanization in Asia and the Pacific (*continued*)			
Vice-Chairpersons: (*continued*)	Milagros I. Llanes (Philippines)		
	A.A. Babenko (Russian Federation)		
	Leafa Vitale (Samoa)		
	Chandra Ranatunge (Sri Lanka)		
	Tomu Sione (Tuvalu)		
	Charlie Nako (Vanuatu)		
	George Ngirarsaol (Republic of Palau)		
Rapporteur:	Sung-Woong Hong (Republic of Korea)		
Committee on Transport and Communications		First session Bangkok 13-17 December 1993	E/ESCAP/948
Chairperson:	A.R.M. Jayawardana (Sri Lanka)		
Vice-Chairpersons:	Primitivo C. Cal (Philippines)		
	Prachod Krynetr (Thailand)		
Rapporteur:	Hans P.T. de Jong (Netherlands)		
Steering Group of the Committee for Regional Economic Cooperation		Fourth meeting Kathmandu 8-11 March 1994	E/ESCAP/REC(3)/3
Chairperson:	Prithvi Raj Ligal (Nepal)		
Vice-Chairpersons:	Wang Baoliu (China)		
	John H.W. Richardson (Australia)		
	Thanes Sucharikul (Thailand)		

Subsidiary body and officers		*Session*	*Document symbol of report*[a]
Steering Group of the Committee for Regional Economic Cooperation (*continued*)			
Rapporteur:	Vu Xuan Truong (Viet Nam)		
Special Body on Pacific Island Developing Countries		Second session Bangkok 31 March 1994	E/ESCAP/950
Chairperson:	Serge Vohor (Vanuatu)		
Vice-Chairpersons:	James Cecil Cocker (Tonga)		
	Jacques Le Blanc (France)		
Rapporteur:	Joseph Zangzang (Papua New Guinea)		
Committee for Regional Economic Cooperation		Third session New Delhi 4-5 April 1994	E/ESCAP/931
Chairperson:	Tejendra Khanna (India)		
Vice-Chairperson:	Bozorgmehr Ziaran (Islamic Republic of Iran)		
	Ahmed Ali (Fiji)		
	Sang-Pal Lee (Republic of Korea)		
Rapporteur:	Mohd. Roze Rodzi bin Abdul Rahman (Malaysia)		

Annex IV

PUBLICATIONS AND DOCUMENTS ISSUED BY THE COMMISSION

A. Sales publications

Title	*United Nations publication sales number*
Atlas of Mineral Resources of the ESCAP Region	
Volume 9, *Geology and Mineral Resources of Nepal: Explanatory brochure*	E.93.II.F.11
Volume 10, *Cambodia: Explanatory brochure*	E.94.II.F.5
Development Papers	
No. 14, Policy Analysis through Macro-Models: Issues, Techniques and Applications in Selected Developing Asian Countries	E.93.II.F.10
No. 15, Social Costs of Economic Restructuring in Asia and the Pacific	E.94.II.F.2
Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 1993	E.94.II.F.8
Economic Bulletin for Asia and the Pacific	
Vol. XLIII, No. 1, June 1992	E.93.II.F.13
Vol. XLIII, No. 2, December 1992	E.94.II.F.10
Electric Power in Asia and the Pacific 1989 and 1990	E.93.II.F.18
Foreign Trade Statistics of Asia and the Pacific, 1987-1991	E/F.94.II.F.6
Quaternary Stratigraphy of Asia and the Pacific IGCP 296 (Mineral Resources Development Series No. 62)	E.93.II.F.15
Quaternary Stratigraphy of Asia and the Pacific IGCP 296 (Mineral Resources Development Series No. 63)	E.94.II.F.7
Small Industry Bulletin for Asia and the Pacific Nos. 26/27	E.93.II.F.8
Statistical Indicators for Asia and the Pacific	
Vol. XXIII, No. 2, June 1993	E.93.II.F.14
Vol. XXIII, No. 3, September 1993	E.93.II.F.19
Vol. XXIII, No. 4, December 1993	E.94.II.F.3
Statistical Yearbook for Asia and the Pacific, 1993	E/F.94.II.F.1
Transport and Communications Bulletin for Asia and the Pacific, No. 63	E.93.II.F.16
Urban Water Resources Management (Water Resources Series No. 72)	E.93.II.F.17

B. Documents submitted to the Commission

Symbol	*Title*	*Agenda item*
E/ESCAP/928 and Add.1	Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 1993: summary	5 (a)
E/ESCAP/929	Progress in implementation of the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade	5 (a)
E/ESCAP/930	Infrastructure development as key to economic growth and regional economic cooperation: summary	5 (b)
E/ESCAP/931 and Corr.1	Report of the Committee for Regional Economic Cooperation on its third session	6 (a)
E/ESCAP/932 and Corr.1	Regional economic cooperation: implementation of the action programme for regional economic cooperation in trade and investment	6 (b)
E/ESCAP/933	Economic and technical cooperation among developing countries	6 (c)
E/ESCAP/934 and Corr.1	Regional economic cooperation: report on the Commission's activities for disadvantaged economies in transition	6 (d)
E/ESCAP/935	Report on the implementation of paragraph 4 of Commission resolution 49/3 on the Tehran Declaration on Strengthening Regional Cooperation for Technology-led Industrialization in Asia and the Pacific	6 (e)
E/ESCAP/936	Report of the Committee on Environment and Sustainable Development on its first session	7 (a)
E/ESCAP/937	Report on the implementation of Agenda 21 in Asia and the Pacific	7 (b)
E/ESCAP/938 and Corr.1	Report on the preparations for the Ministerial Conference on Space Applications for Development in Asia and the Pacific	7 (c)
E/ESCAP/939	Poverty alleviation through economic growth and social development: report of the Committee on Poverty Alleviation through Economic Growth and Social Development, first session, and its follow-up	8 (a)
E/ESCAP/940	Highlights of the Ministerial Conference on Urbanization in Asia and the Pacific	8 (b)
E/ESCAP/941 and Corr.1	Regional action plan on urbanization	8 (b)
E/ESCAP/942 and Add.1	Progress report on the formulation and implementation of shelter strategies towards the year 2000	8 (b)
E/ESCAP/943 and Corr.1 and 2	Poverty alleviation through economic growth and social development: regional preparations for the World Summit for Social Development	8 (c)
E/ESCAP/944	Poverty alleviation through economic growth and social development: regional preparations for the Fourth World Conference on Women: Action for Equality, Development and Peace	8 (d)
E/ESCAP/945 and Corr.1	Poverty alleviation through economic growth and social development: progress in the implementation of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 1993-2002	8 (e)

Symbol	*Title*	*Agenda item*
E/ESCAP/946	Jakarta Plan of Action on Human Resources Development in the ESCAP Region, as revised in 1994	8 (f)
E/ESCAP/947	Poverty alleviation through economic growth and social development: follow-up of the Bali Declaration on Population and Sustainable Development and implementation strategies: regional preparations for the International Conference on Population and Development	8 (g)
E/ESCAP/948 and Corr.1	Transport and communications: report of the Committee on Transport and Communications, first session	9
E/ESCAP/949	Major issues arising from the deliberations of the Committee on Transport and Communications	9
E/ESCAP/950	Least developed, land-locked and island developing countries: report of the Special Body on Pacific Island Developing Countries, second session	10 (a)
E/ESCAP/951 and Corr.1	Least developed, land-locked and island developing countries: implementation of Commission resolution 49/8 on strengthening assistance to least developed countries	10 (b)
E/ESCAP/952	Report on the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology	11 (a)
E/ESCAP/953 and Add.1	Report on the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific	11 (b)
E/ESCAP/954 and Corr.1	Report on the Regional Coordination Centre for Research and Development of Coarse Grains, Pulses, Roots and Tuber Crops in the Humid Tropics of Asia and the Pacific	11 (c)
E/ESCAP/955	Report on the Regional Network for Agricultural Machinery	11 (d)
E/ESCAP/956	Restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic and social fields: implementation of Commission resolution 48/2 on restructuring the conference structure of the Commission	12
E/ESCAP/957	Inter-organizational cooperation: cooperation between ESCAP and other organizations in the promotion of economic and social development in the region	13 (a)
E/ESCAP/958	Inter-organizational cooperation: strengthening the role of ESCAP in the coordination of regional operational activities: implementation of Commission resolution 49/10	13 (b)
E/ESCAP/959	Report of the Committee for Coordination of Joint Prospecting for Mineral Resources in Asian Offshore Areas	14
E/ESCAP/960/ Rev.1	Summary of activities of the Interim Committee for Coordination of Investigations of the Lower Mekong Basin during 1993 and plans for 1994	14
E/ESCAP/961	Report of the Typhoon Committee	14
E/ESCAP/962	Report of the Asian and Pacific Development Centre	14
E/ESCAP/963 and Corr.1-3	Proposed programme changes for the biennium 1994-1995	15 (a)
E/ESCAP/964 and Corr.1	End-of-biennium report on the implementation of the programme of work, 1992-1993	15 (a)

Symbol	*Title*	*Agenda item*
E/ESCAP/965	Tentative calendar of meetings, 1994/95	15 (a)
E/ESCAP/966	Proposed second revision of the medium-term plan, 1992-1997, including implications of the thematic programming approach	15 (b)
E/ESCAP/967	Resolutions and decisions bearing on the work of the Commission adopted by the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council	15 (b)
E/ESCAP/968	Programme planning: issues relevant to and resources for the technical cooperation activities of ESCAP	15 (c)
E/ESCAP/969 and Corr.1	Technical cooperation activities of ESCAP and announcement of intended contributions	16
E/ESCAP/970 and Add.1	Report of the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission	17
E/ESCAP/971	Date, venue and any other subject pertaining to the fifty-first session of the Commission	18
E/ESCAP/972	Follow-up to the first session of the Committee on Environment and Sustainable Development	7 (a)
E/ESCAP/973	Technical cooperation activities in Asia and the Pacific in 1993: information paper presented by the United Nations Development Programme	16
E/ESCAP/974/ Rev.1	Amendment of the terms of reference of the Commission: membership of Armenia	4
E/ESCAP/975	Technical cooperation activities in Asia and the Pacific in 1993: information paper presented by the Department for Development Support and Management Services	16

Annex V

TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

As adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its fourth session, amended by the Council at subsequent sessions, and revised in consequence of various General Assembly resolutions.

The Economic and Social Council,

Having considered General Assembly resolution 46(I) of 11 December 1946, in which the General Assembly "recommends that, in order to give effective aid to the countries devastated by war, the Economic and Social Council, at its next session, give prompt and favourable consideration to the establishment of ... an Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East",

Having noted the report of the Working Group for Asia and the Far East of the Temporary Sub-Commission on Economic Reconstruction of Devastated Areas,

Establishes an Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific with terms of reference as follows:

1. The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, acting within the framework of the policies of the United Nations and subject to the general supervision of the Council, shall, provided that the Commission takes no action in respect of any country without the agreement of the Government of that country:

(a) Initiate and participate in measures for facilitating concerted action for the economic reconstruction and development of Asia and the Pacific, for raising the level of economic activity in Asia and the Pacific and for maintaining and strengthening the economic relations of these areas both among themselves and with other countries of the world;

(b) Make or sponsor such investigations and studies of economic and technological problems and developments within territories of Asia and the Pacific as the Commission deems appropriate;

(c) Undertake or sponsor the collection, evaluation and dissemination of such economic, technological and statistical information as the Commission deems appropriate;

(d) Perform such advisory services, within the available resources of its secretariat, as the countries of the region may desire, provided that such services do not overlap with those rendered by the specialized agencies or the United Nations Technical Assistance Administration;

(e) Assist the Economic and Social Council, at its request, in discharging its functions within the region in connection with any economic problems, including problems in the field of technical assistance;

(f) In carrying out the above functions, deal, as appropriate, with the social aspects of economic development and the interrelationship of the economic and social factors.

2. The territories of Asia and the Pacific referred to in paragraph 1 shall include Afghanistan, Australia, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, China, the Cook Islands, Fiji, French Polynesia, Guam, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Japan, Kazakhstan, Kiribati, Korea, Kyrgyzstan, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Macau, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nauru, Nepal, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Niue, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Samoa, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Thailand, Tonga, the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu and Viet Nam.

3. The members of the Commission shall consist of Afghanistan, Australia, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, China, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Fiji, France, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Japan, Kazakhstan, Kiribati, Kyrgyzstan, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Maldives, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Mongolia, Myanmar, Nauru, Nepal, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, Samoa, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Thailand, Tonga, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu and Viet Nam, provided that any State in the area which may hereafter become a Member of the United Nations shall be thereupon admitted as a member of the Commission.

4. The associate members shall include American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Cook Islands, French Polynesia, Guam, Hong Kong, Macau, New Caledonia, Niue and the Republic of Palau.

5. Any territory, part or group of territories within the geographical scope of the Commission as defined in paragraph 2 may, on presentation of its application to the Commission by the member responsible for the international relations of such territory, part or group of territories, be admitted by the Commission as an associate member of the Commission. If it has become responsible for its own international relations, such territory, part or group of territories may be admitted as an associate member of the Commission on itself presenting its application to the Commission.

6. Representatives of associate members shall be entitled to participate without vote in all meetings of the Commission, whether sitting as Commission or as Committee of the Whole.

7. Representatives of associate members shall be eligible to be appointed as members of any committee, or other subordinate body, which may be set up by the Commission and shall be eligible to vote and hold office in such body.

8. The Commission is empowered to make recommendations on any matters within its competence directly to the Governments of members or associate members concerned, Governments admitted in consultative capacity, and the specialized agencies concerned. The Commission shall submit for the Council's prior consideration any of its proposals of activities that would have important effects on the economy of the world as a whole.

9. The Commission shall invite any Member of the United Nations not a member of the Commission to participate in a consultative capacity in its consideration of any matter of particular concern to that non-member.

10. The Commission shall invite representatives of specialized agencies and may invite representatives of any intergovernmental organizations to participate in a consultative capacity in its consideration of any matter of particular concern to that agency or organization following the practice of the Economic and Social Council.

11. The Commission shall make arrangements for consultation with non-governmental organizations which have been granted consultative status by the Economic and Social Council, in accordance with the principles approved by the Council for this purpose and contained in Council resolution 1296 (XLIV).

12. The Commission shall take measures to ensure that the necessary liaison is maintained with other organs of the United Nations and with the specialized agencies. The Commission shall establish appropriate liaison and cooperation with other regional economic commissions in accordance with the resolutions and directives of the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly.

13. The Commission may, after discussion with any specialized agency functioning in the same general field, and with the approval of the Council, establish such subsidiary bodies as it deems appropriate, for facilitating the carrying out of its responsibilities.

14. The Commission shall adopt its own rules of procedure, including the method of selecting its Chairman.

15. The Commission shall submit to the Council a full report on its activities and plans, including those of any subsidiary bodies, once a year.

16. The administrative budget of the Commission shall be financed from the funds of the United Nations.

17. The Secretary-General of the United Nations shall appoint the staff of the Commission, which shall form part of the Secretariat of the United Nations.

18. The headquarters of the Commission shall be located at Bangkok, Thailand.

19. The Council shall, from time to time, make special reviews of the work of the Commission.

Annex VI

RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

As drawn up at the first session, confirmed and adopted at the second session, and amended at subsequent sessions of the Commission.

Chapter I

SESSIONS

Rule 1

The following principles shall apply as regards date and place for the sessions of the Commission:

(a) The Commission shall at each session recommend the date and place for its next session subject to the approval of the Council and in consultation with the Secretary-General. Sessions of the Commission shall also be held within forty-five days of the communication to the Executive Secretary of a request to that effect by the Economic and Social Council, and, in that case, the Secretary-General shall establish the place of such sessions in consultation with the Chairman of the Commission;

(b) In special cases the date and place of the session may be altered by the Secretary-General in consultation with the Chairman of the Commission and the Council's Interim Committee on Programme of Conferences. At the request of the majority of the members of the Commission, the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Chairman of the Commission and the Council's Interim Committee on Programme of Conferences, may also alter the date and place of the session;

(c) Sessions shall ordinarily be held at the office of the United Nations in Asia and the Pacific. The Commission may recommend holding a particular session elsewhere.

Rule 2

The Executive Secretary shall, at least forty-two days before the commencement of a session, distribute a notice of the opening date of the session, together with three copies of the provisional agenda and of the basic documents relating to each item appearing on the provisional agenda. Distribution shall be similar to that under rule 49.

Rule 3

The Commission shall invite any Member of the United Nations not a member of the Commission to participate in a consultative capacity in its consideration of any matter of particular concern to that Member.

Chapter II

AGENDA

Rule 4

The provisional agenda for each session shall be drawn up by the Executive Secretary in consultation with the Chairman.

Rule 5

The provisional agenda for any session shall include:

(a) Items arising from previous sessions of the Commission;

(b) Items proposed by the Economic and Social Council;

(c) Items proposed by any member or associate member of the Commission;

(d) Items proposed by a specialized agency in accordance with the agreements of relationship concluded between the United Nations and such agencies;

(e) Items proposed by non-governmental organizations in category I, subject to the provisions of rule 6;

(f) Any other items which the Chairman or the Executive Secretary sees fit to include.

Rule 6

Non-governmental organizations in category I may propose items on matters within their competence for the provisional agenda of the Commission, subject to the following conditions:

(a) An organization which intends to propose such an item shall inform the Executive Secretary at least sixty-three days before the commencement of the session, and before formally proposing an item shall give due consideration to any comments he may make;

(b) The proposal shall be formally submitted with the relevant basic documentation not less than forty-nine days before the commencement of the session. The item shall be included in the agenda of the Commission if it is adopted by a two-thirds majority of those present and voting.

Rule 7

The first item upon the provisional agenda for each session shall be the adoption of the agenda.

Rule 8

The Commission may amend the agenda at any time.

Chapter III

REPRESENTATION AND CREDENTIALS

Rule 9

Each member shall be represented on the Commission by an accredited representative.

Rule 10

A representative may be accompanied to the sessions of the Commission by alternate representatives and advisers and, when absent, he may be replaced by an alternate representative.

Rule 11

The credentials of each representative appointed to the Commission, together with a designation of alternate representatives, shall be submitted to the Executive Secretary without delay.

Rule 12

The Chairman and the two Vice-Chairmen shall examine the credentials and report upon them to the Commission.

Chapter IV

OFFICERS

Rule 13

The Commission shall, at its first meeting of each year, elect from among its representatives a Chairman and two Vice-Chairmen, designated as First and Second Vice-Chairmen, who shall hold office until their successors are elected. They shall be eligible for re-election.

Rule 14

If the Chairman is absent from a meeting, or any part thereof, the Vice-Chairman designated by the Chairman shall preside.

Rule 15

If the Chairman ceases to represent a member of the Commission, or is so incapacitated that he can no longer hold office, the First Vice-Chairman shall become Chairman for the unexpired portion of the term. If the First Vice-Chairman also ceases to represent a member of the Commission, or is so incapacitated that he can no longer hold office, the Second Vice-Chairman shall become Chairman for the unexpired portion of the term.

Rule 16

The Vice-Chairman acting as Chairman shall have the same powers and duties as the Chairman.

Rule 17

The Chairman, or the Vice-Chairman acting as Chairman, shall participate in the meetings of the Commission as such, and not as the representative of the member by whom he was accredited. The Commission shall admit an alternate representative to represent that member in the meetings of the Commission and to exercise its right to vote.

Chapter V

SECRETARIAT

Rule 18

The Executive Secretary shall act in that capacity at all meetings of the Commission and of its subcommissions, other subsidiary bodies and committees. He may appoint another member of the staff to take his place at any meeting.

Rule 19

The Executive Secretary or his representative may at any meeting make either oral or written statements concerning any question under consideration.

Rule 20

The Executive Secretary shall direct the staff provided by the Secretary-General and required by the Commission, its subcommissions, and any other subsidiary bodies and committees.

Rule 21

The Executive Secretary shall be responsible for the necessary arrangements being made for meetings.

Rule 22

The Executive Secretary in carrying out his functions shall act on behalf of the Secretary-General.

Rule 23

Before new proposals which involve expenditure from United Nations funds are approved by the

Commission, the Executive Secretary shall prepare and circulate to members an estimate of that part of the cost involved in the proposals which could not be met out of the resources available to the secretariat. It shall be the duty of the Chairman to draw the attention of members to this estimate, and invite discussion on it before the proposals are approved.

Chapter VI

CONDUCT OF BUSINESS

Rule 24

A majority of the members of the Commission shall constitute a quorum.

Rule 25

In addition to exercising the powers conferred upon him elsewhere by these rules, the Chairman shall declare the opening and closing of each meeting of the Commission, shall direct the discussion, ensure the observance of these rules, and shall accord the right to speak, put questions to the vote, and announce decisions. The Chairman may also call a speaker to order if his remarks are not relevant to the subject under discussion.

Rule 26

During the discussion of any matter, a representative may raise a point of order. In this case, the Chairman shall immediately state his ruling. If it is challenged, the Chairman shall forthwith submit his ruling to the Commission for decision, and it shall stand unless overruled.

Rule 27

During the discussion of any matter, a representative may move the adjournment of the debate. Any such motion shall have priority. In addition to the proposer of the motion, one representative shall be allowed to speak in favour of, and one representative against, the motion.

Rule 28

A representative may at any time move the closure of the debate whether or not any other representative has signified his wish to speak. Not more than two representatives may be granted permission to speak against the closure.

Rule 29

The Chairman shall take the sense of the Commission on a motion for closure. If the Commission is in favour of the closure, the Chairman shall declare the debate closed.

Rule 30

The Commission may limit the time allowed to each speaker.

Rule 31

Draft resolutions, and substantial amendments or motions, shall be introduced in writing and handed to the Executive Secretary, who shall circulate copies to the representatives at least twenty-four hours before they are discussed and voted upon, unless the Commission decides otherwise.

Rule 32

Upon the request of any member, any motion and amendment thereto made by any speaker shall be given to the Chairman in writing and shall be read by him before any further speaker is called upon and also immediately before a vote is taken on such motion or amendment. The Chairman may direct that any motion or amendment be circulated to the members present before a vote is taken.

This rule shall not apply to formal motions such as one for closure or adjournment.

Rule 33

Principal motions and resolutions shall be put to the vote in the order of their submission unless the Commission decides otherwise.

Rule 34

When an amendment revises, adds to or deletes from a proposal, the amendment shall be put to the vote first, and, if it is adopted, the amended proposal shall then be put to the vote.

Rule 35

If two or more amendments are moved to a proposal, the Commission shall vote first on the amendment furthest removed in substance from the original proposal; then, if necessary, on the amendment next furthest removed; and so on, until all the amendments have been put to the vote.

Rule 36

The Commission may, at the request of a representative, decide to put a motion or resolution to the vote in parts. If this is done, the text resulting from the series of votes shall be put to the vote as a whole.

Chapter VII

VOTING

Rule 37

Each member of the Commission shall have one vote.

Rule 38

Except for the provision of rule 6*(b)*, decisions of the Commission shall be made by a majority of the members present and voting.

Rule 39

The Commission shall take no action in respect of any country without the agreement of the Government of that country.

Rule 40

The Commission shall normally vote by a show of hands. If any representative requests a roll-call, a roll-call shall be taken in the English alphabetical order of the names of the members.

Rule 41

All elections shall be decided by secret ballot.

Rule 42

If a vote is equally divided upon matters other than elections, a second vote shall be taken at the next meeting. If this vote also results in equality, the proposal shall be regarded as rejected.

Rule 43

After the voting has commenced, no representative shall interrupt voting except on a point of order in connection with the actual conduct of the voting. Brief statements by members consisting solely of explanations of their votes may be permitted by the Chairman, if he deems it necessary, before the voting has commenced or after the voting has been completed.

Chapter VIII

LANGUAGES

Rule 44

Chinese, English, French and Russian shall be the working languages of the Commission.

Rule 45

Speeches made in one of the working languages shall be interpreted into the other working languages.

Chapter IX

RECORDS

Rule 46

Summary records of the meetings of the Commission shall be kept by the secretariat. They shall be sent as soon as possible to the representatives of members and to the representatives of any other government agency or organization which participated in the meeting concerned. Such representatives shall inform the secretariat, not later than seventy-two hours after the circulation of any summary record, of any changes they wish to have made. Any disagreement concerning such changes shall be referred to the Chairman, whose decision shall be final.

Rule 47

The corrected version of the summary records of public meetings shall be distributed as soon as possible in accordance with the usual practice of the United Nations. This shall include distribution to non-governmental organizations in categories I and II and those on the Roster, and on appropriate occasions to consultative members.

Rule 48

The corrected version of the summary records of private meetings shall be distributed as soon as possible to the members of the Commission, to any consultative member participating in the meeting concerned, and to the specialized agencies. They shall be distributed to all the Members of the United Nations if and when the Commission so decides.

Rule 49

As soon as possible, the text of all reports, resolutions, recommendations and other formal decisions made by the Commission, its subcommissions or other subsidiary bodies and its committees shall be communicated to the members of the Commission, to the consultative members concerned, to all other Members of the United Nations, to the specialized agencies, and to the non-governmental organizations in categories I and II and those on the Roster.

Chapter X

PUBLICITY OF MEETINGS

Rule 50

The meetings of the Commission shall ordinarily be held in public. The Commission may decide that a particular meeting or meetings shall be held in private.

Chapter XI

CONSULTATIONS WITH SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY

Rule 51

1. Where an item proposed for the provisional agenda for a session contains a proposal for new activities to be undertaken by the United Nations relating to matters which are of direct concern to one or

more specialized agencies or the International Atomic Energy Agency, the Executive Secretary shall enter into consultation with the agency or agencies concerned and report to the Commission on the means of achieving coordinated use of the resources of the respective agencies.

2. Where a proposal put forward in the course of a meeting for new activities to be undertaken by the United Nations relates to matters which are of direct concern to one or more specialized agencies or the International Atomic Energy Agency, the Executive Secretary shall, after such consultation as may be possible with the representatives at the meeting of the other agency or agencies concerned, draw the attention of the meeting to these implications of the proposal.

3. Before deciding on proposals referred to above, the Commission shall satisfy itself that adequate consultations have taken place with the agencies concerned.

Chapter XII

RELATIONS WITH NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

Rule 52

Non-governmental organizations in categories I and II may designate authorized representatives to sit as observers at public meetings of the Commission. Organizations on the Roster may have representatives present at such meetings which are concerned with matters within their field of competence.

Rule 53

Written statements relevant to the work of the Commission or its subsidiary bodies may be submitted by organizations in categories I and II on subjects for which these organizations have a special competence. Such statements shall be circulated by the Executive Secretary to the members and associate members of the Commission except those statements which have become obsolete - e.g. those dealing with matters already disposed of, and those which have already been circulated in some other form to members and associate members of the Commission or its subsidiary bodies.

Rule 54

The following conditions shall be observed regarding the submission and circulation of such written statements:

(a) The written statement shall be submitted in one of the official languages;

(b) It shall be submitted in sufficient time for appropriate consultation to take place between the Executive Secretary and the organization before circulation;

(c) The organization shall give due consideration to any comments which the Executive Secretary may make in the course of such consultation before transmitting the statement in final form;

(d) A written statement submitted by an organization in category I will be circulated in full if it does not exceed 2,000 words. Where a statement is in excess of 2,000 words, the organization shall submit a summary, which will be circulated, or shall supply sufficient copies of the full text in the working languages for distribution. A statement will also be circulated in full, however, upon the specific request of the Commission or of one of its subsidiary bodies;

(e) A written statement submitted by an organization in category II will be circulated in full if it does not exceed 1,500 words. Where a statement is in excess of 1,500 words, the organization shall submit a summary, which will be circulated, or shall supply sufficient copies of the full text in the working languages for distribution. A statement will also be circulated in full, however, upon the specific request of the Commission or other subsidiary bodies;

(f) The Executive Secretary in consultation with the Chairman or the Commission itself may invite organizations on the Roster to submit written statements. The provisions of paragraphs *(a)*, *(b)*, *(c)* and *(e)* above shall apply to such statements;

(g) A written statement or summary, as the case may be, will be circulated by the Executive Secretary in the working languages and, upon the request of a member or associate member of the Commission, in any of the official languages.

Rule 55

(a) The Commission and its subsidiary bodies may consult with organizations in category I or II either directly or through a committee or committees established for the purpose. In all cases, such consultations may be arranged on the request of the organization;

(b) On the recommendation of the Executive Secretary and at the request of the Commission or one of its subsidiary bodies, organizations on the Roster may also be heard by the Commission or its subsidiary bodies.

Rule 56

Subject to rule 23 the Commission may recommend that a non-governmental organization which has special competence in a particular field should undertake specific studies or investigations or prepare specific papers for the Commission. The limitations of rule 54*(d)* and *(e)* shall not apply in this case.

Chapter XIII

SUBCOMMISSIONS, OTHER SUBSIDIARY BODIES AND COMMITTEES

Rule 57

After discussion with any specialized agency functioning in the same field, and with the approval of the Economic and Social Council, the Commission may establish such continually acting subcommissions or other subsidiary bodies as it deems necessary for the performance of its functions and shall define the powers and composition of each of them. Such autonomy as may be necessary for the effective discharge of the technical responsibilities laid upon them may be delegated to them.

Rule 58

The Commission may establish such committees and subcommittees as it deems necessary to assist it in carrying out its tasks.

Rule 59

Subcommissions or other subsidiary bodies and committees, subcommittees and working parties shall adopt their own rules of procedure unless otherwise decided by the Commission.

Chapter XIV

REPORTS

Rule 60

The Commission shall, once a year, submit to the Economic and Social Council a full report on its activities and plans, including those of any subsidiary bodies.

Chapter XV

AMENDMENTS AND SUSPENSIONS

Rule 61

Any of these rules of procedure may be amended or suspended by the Commission, provided that the proposed amendments or suspensions do not attempt to set aside the terms of reference laid down by the Economic and Social Council.

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